Undergraduate research can be an impactful learning activity (AAC&U, 2023). Here are some findings about the influence of research on student learning.

**Undergraduate research is composed of:**
- A purposely structured activity that results in new, noteworthy data.
- The analysis of that data leading to conclusions.
- The availability of conclusions to a community of scientists (Bangera, Harrington & Fuller, 2018).

**Potential benefits for student learning include:**
- Practicing skills of the discipline
- Learning to work independently
- Building tolerance for obstacles and learning challenges
- Transforming the student/teacher relationship
- Clarifying career goals (Hensel, 2018)

**Quality mentoring is key.**
Impactful research mentors have the ability to create and maintain challenge during the research process, while facilitating meaningful engagement and a sense of achievement among students (Walkington et al., 2020).

**Embedding research into a course encourages equity.**
Research has been successfully embedded in many types and sizes of courses. Some examples are: freshman honors, small seminars, individual directed studies, and large, upper level courses (Evans & Evans, 2021).

Incorporating research into a course makes it more likely that all students will have fewer barriers and increased access to undergraduate research (Hensel, 2018).

**Check out this book on course based undergraduate research for more!**
Course-Based Undergraduate Research: Educational Equity and High-Impact Practice
### STRATEGIES FOR MAKING RESEARCH HIGH IMPACT

<table>
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<th>Start early.</th>
<th>Embed research into a course using backward design.</th>
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| Undergraduate research is higher-impact when students have the opportunity to participate in research starting in their first year (Sell, 2018). | - Begin by developing learning outcomes (or goals) for the research experience.  
  - Decide how student learning will be assessed (e.g., individual or group presentation, written paper, poster).  
  - Determine how you will scaffold (or structure over time) research activities.  
  - Choose your methods for communication and feedback. |

One way to help students participate in research early on is by embedding research into courses.

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**Build a public demonstration of competence into the research experience.**

Public displays of competence are one of the eight key characteristics of high impact practices. Students might present their research process or findings:

- Among classmates and instructors
- At an undergraduate research conference or symposium
- At a community event
- In a setting/format authentic to their discipline

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**Interested in talking more about undergraduate research as a HIP?**

Schedule a consultation with Audrey!