

HIP TIPS: THE BENEFITS OF RESEARCH FOR STUDENT LEARNING

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

Start early.

Undergraduate research is higher-impact when students have the opportunity to participate in research starting in their first year ([Sell, 2018](#)).

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



Embed research into a course using backward design.

- 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.



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

Interested in talking more about undergraduate research as a HIP?

[Schedule a consultation](#) with Audrey!

