

## Program Description

***UCLA Samueli Engineering and Applied Science is inviting engineering students to apply for an opportunity to be a part of 2018-2019 cohort of the Undergraduate Research Program (URP).***

**What is URP:** The Undergraduate Research Program's mission is to develop first-in-class research opportunities that lead to undergraduates who are well-informed about engineering career opportunities in both academic and corporate settings. The URP website is <https://tinyurl.com/ucla-urp-info>. The goals of this program are to:

- Recognize and celebrate student research
- Support all students currently doing research to publish their research in one of the 3 following formats:
  - Poster and abstract in the Undergraduate Research Program journal
  - Poster at Undergraduate Research Week Poster Day in Pauley Pavilion
  - Journal article in UCLA Undergraduate Science Journal

There are three tracks: Fall, Winter, and Spring. The Fall quarter track is for students new to research, so they will do URP for three quarters. The Winter quarter track is for relatively inexperienced students with one quarter of research, so they will do URP for two quarters. The Spring quarter track is for experienced researchers that will just be publishing in the Samueli URP research journal and at UCLA Undergraduate Research Week Poster Day.

**Why should you apply?** URP offers numerous benefits to its participants.

Following participation in this program, you will know how to:

- Decipher technical journal articles
- Effectively communicate research results in several formats including:
  - Oral PowerPoint presentations
  - Visual scientific posters
  - Written abstracts
  - Research reports
- Publish an abstract and poster in URP Research Journal
- Present scientific research poster at Undergraduate Research Week Poster Day

### Additional benefits:

- You will receive a formal certificate of completion signed by Dean Jayathi Murthy
- Your research will be highlighted on the UCLA Samueli website in the [URP research journal](#)
- You will interact with industry recruiters at the UCLA Samueli URP Poster Session and Award Ceremony
- You will receive advice on your post program next steps, including how to attain:
  - Paid summer research positions
  - Paid summer industry internships
  - Present research at national conferences
  - Publish research in scientific journals
- Be eligible to win a \$750 award for Best Research Poster

### Requirements:

- Enroll in the 99, 194, or 199 courses for the entirety of the program.
- Commit 8-15 hours each week in lab.
- Commit 2-3 hours each week outside of lab. This includes participation in:
  - Technical Presentation Lab (Winter 2019 and Spring 2019)
  - 3 Poster Workshops (Winter 2019 or Spring 2019)
  - 1 Program Check-in Meeting each quarter
  - Spring Quarter UCLA Samueli URP Award Reception on May 21, 2019
  - Undergraduate Research Week Poster Day in the third week of May 2019
  - Orientation and end-of-quarter meeting

## Frequently Asked Questions

1. **What is the time commitment of the URP program?**

In total, it will be approximately 10-18 hours a week depending on how much time you spend in the lab and how many events (seminars, workshops) you participate in each quarter. Doing a presentation at Undergraduate Research Week Poster Day and attending orientation, the end-of-quarter meeting, and the URP Award Ceremony are also required. There is a calendar of URP events.

2. **Can I apply even if I haven't secured a research lab yet?**

Yes, but you will not be admitted until you have secured a research lab.

3. **I just joined a research lab. Can I still apply?**

Yes, as long as you have secured a research lab and will be doing research for the quarter in which you are admitted to the program, you are eligible.

4. **How do I find a research lab?**

There are several resources to find a research lab that matches with your interests. First, there is the Undergraduate Research Portal, which you can find through myUCLA. Second, you can do a search of the Samuelli engineering website and look at the [6 pillars of research](#), the list of [research centers](#), redirects to department research pages, and faculty research lab webpages.

5. **How do I enroll in 99, 194, or 199?**

The information on how to enroll in these courses is available [here](#) at <https://tinyurl.com/y9tbdn24>. Don't confuse these courses with 95 and 195, which are internship courses.

6. **What is the difference between the 99, 194, and 199 courses?**

- [99](#) (<http://www.ugresearchsci.ucla.edu/srpintro.htm>) is an independent research course designed for entry-level research experience, particularly suited to lower-division and first-quarter transfer students, and allows undergraduates early in their academic career to participate in research or engage in scholarly efforts under the direction of a faculty mentor. 99's are a one quarter commitment, however many students do two quarters of 99's before they pursue upper division research credits. **99 is a P/NP grade.**

- 194 and 199 are departmental courses designed for upper division students that are participating in more advanced, independent research projects, requiring a research paper. Students are expected to work between 12-14 hours per week for 4 units of credit. It is expected that the student will attend and participate in lab meetings and also submit a research report each term. Unit/hour guidelines are established by each department. **194 and 199 are letter grades.**

7. **Can these research courses count as credit towards my degree?**

It depends on your major. Go to this [website](#) (<https://tinyurl.com/yaedxrtu>) to see if your major allows it.

8. **How long is the Undergraduate Research Program?**

It depends on your level of experience in research. If you are new to research, it's recommended to stay in URP for three quarters starting in fall quarter. If you have some research experience (at least 1 quarter), it's recommended to do two quarters starting winter quarter. In both of the above cases, you will receive a certificate from Dean Jayathi Murthy. If you are an experienced researcher (at least 2 quarters or a full summer), it's recommended to stay for a quarter, starting in the spring, to just publish.

9. **Where can I go to talk to someone if I have questions that aren't answered by the powerpoints, presentations, online resources, etc.?**

The Engineering Student Resource Center (6288 Boelter) has two peer advisors, Peter Wang and Caitlyn Anderson, that host drop-in advising. Peter Wang's hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4 pm to 5 pm and Fridays from 12 in the morning to 1:30 pm. Caitlyn Anderson's hours are Mondays and Tuesdays from 10 in the morning to noon and Fridays from 9 in the morning to noon. If you've scheduled an appointment, complete the [research pre-advising worksheet](#).