

Finding Research Opportunities

Fall 2023

Research Overview

Research is an important activity for many students considering careers in healthcare. Some healthcare professional schools require or expect research experience. Even schools that do not expect or require research will value research experience.

Research occurs in all academic disciplines, and pre-health students are not limited to biomedical research. Many students pursue projects based on other interests or their major.

Reasons to pursue undergraduate research include:

- Research demonstrates intellectual curiosity, application of academic knowledge, and commitment to learning.
- Research might lead to discernment of a research career interest.
- Research enables healthcare professionals to understand research in order to apply that knowledge to patient care.
- Research is an opportunity to work closely with a faculty or research mentor and could lead to a supportive letter of recommendation.

Where to Look for Research

Many science departments at Creighton have faculty conducting research that is biomedical in nature, but not all research must be biomedical. If there is other research you find interesting, it is usually best to follow your interests so you are actively and enthusiastically engaged in the project you pursue. Students seeking admission to an MD/PhD program should pursue science-based research.

Explore department websites to see faculty research interests and what projects are taking place. Many departments conduct healthcare-related research. For many professional schools, all research is valuable.

Biology	Psychology	Social Work
Chemistry & Biochemistry	Neuroscience	Health Administration & Policy
Exercise Science	Medical Anthropology	
Physics	Exercise Science	

In addition to research conducted in academic departments, there are a number of [centers and institutes at Creighton](#) conducting research. In many cases, research participation at these centers and institutes is intended for professional students, but if you see a project that sparks your interest, you can reach out to ask about opportunities for undergraduates.

School of Medicine Departments, Centers & Institutes

Creighton School of Medicine conducts ongoing research. An overview of their research can be found on their website.

Most research undergraduates participate in through the School of Medicine is conducted by faculty in three departments that offer basic science M.S. and Ph.D degrees.

[Biomedical Sciences](#)

[Pharmacology](#)

[Medical Microbiology & Immunology](#)

Creighton
UNIVERSITY

Student Success

Advising Resources and Support

Finding Research Projects with Faculty

Students will need to invest time to find their own research opportunities beyond those available through formal summer research programs.

Finding Research Projects

- Look for research links in the home pages of departments, centers, or institutes at Creighton and other universities.
- Look at faculty lists and find recent publications and descriptions of their research.
- Identify faculty whose research seems of interest and contact them.

Contacting Faculty

Reach out in person or via customized email and provide a resume and cover letter with the following information:

- Professional goals
- Your class year and intended graduation date
- Relevant courses
- Prior laboratory or research experience (including high school experiences)
- Any certifications you have (HIPAA, etc.)
- The amount of time you are available to work (hours per week, how many months, academic year, summer, etc.)

You may indicate you are interested in both paid and volunteer positions. While some positions are paid, others are not, and stating a preference for only paid positions may eliminate opportunities. Your cover letter can say you would appreciate hearing from the researcher at their convenience and that you plan to follow up in a few weeks. The Creighton Career Center can assist with resumes and cover letters.

Additional Resources for Finding Research

General Research Information

- [Creighton Biology Department Research FAQs](#)
- [Creighton Center for Undergraduate Research and Scholarship \(CURAS\)](#)
- [Creighton Career Center Internship & Job Search Resources](#)

Research Opportunities at Creighton

- [Creighton Student Employment](#) - Sometimes there are positions working in campus labs assisting with, or supporting research.

National Research Opportunities

Note: Many summer research and enrichment programs have deadlines in January for the upcoming year.

- [Rochester Institute of Technology Research Opportunity Co-Op List](#)
- [Summer Undergraduate Research Programs List](#)