

How to get started in research

These are suggestions on how to get started in research and creative activities, and are flexible and do not need to be completed in order.

1. What are you interested in?
 - a. What is your major?
 - b. Which subject areas most interest you?
 - c. Which topics in your classes interest you?
 - d. Do you have a specific project in mind (e.g., cancer research) or do you want to acquire a set of skills that can be transferred to other sub-disciplines in the future?
 - e. Attend lectures/presentations to help generate ideas for your own research
 - f. Remember: You should really be excited about working on a research project.

2. Who are your advocates?
 - a. Visit the OURI office
 - b. Meet with an OURI Peer Mentor
 - c. Discuss your interests with other undergraduate researchers, graduate students, and professors

3. Find the Research going on at FAU and Review the Literature
 - a. FAU Library, FAU Faculty, FAU partnerships
 - b. Searchwise

4. How do I find a mentor?
 - a. Take a look at the departmental websites
 - b. Review FAU faculty and their research interests and publications
 - c. Review the Undergraduate Research Journal and Symposium booklet
 - d. Identify 3-5 faculty members
 - e. Make an appointment via email, during office hours
 - f. Do your homework
 - g. Be prepared

Once you have a Faculty Mentor:

5. Formulate question(s) with your Faculty mentor.
 - a. Develop a "Research Question" with your faculty mentor

6. Research Compliance: Do I need it? Which one?
 - a. Institutional Review Board (IRB)
 - b. Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)
 - c. Environmental Health and Safety (EHS)
 - d. Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC)
 - e. See more information at this link: http://www.fau.edu/ouri/research_ethics.php