



Office of Undergraduate Research and Inquiry
Undergraduate Studies
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MEMORANDUM:

To: Chair, University Undergraduate Programs Committee (UUPC)

From: Dr. Donna Chamely-Wiik

Chair, Undergraduate Research Curriculum Committee

Date: January 13, 2026

RE: 1. College of Education proposal to allow non-General Education upper division courses to count toward the Research Exposure and Skill Building requirements for the Undergraduate Research Certificate

The Undergraduate Research Curriculum Committee requests that UUPC review and approve the College of Education proposal to allow non-General Education upper division courses to count toward the Research Exposure and Skill Building requirements for the Undergraduate Research Certificate. This change would provide students with the opportunity to earn the Undergraduate Research Certificate within their respective college or major.

Proposal for a Research Certificate Within Colleges

Submitted by Sharon M. Darling, COE Liaison

Current Situation

- Research exposure and skill-building opportunities are primarily offered through lower-division courses, which are typically taken by early undergraduate students. Research Exposure is currently limited to General Education.

Challenge

- In the College of Education (COE), many students transfer from in-state or out-of-state institutions.
- These transfer students often complete most or all of their lower-division coursework before enrolling in the COE at FAU, and only 3 credits are allowed to transfer, limiting their access to the Designation.

Proposal

- The College of Education proposes that COE propose non-general education courses be eligible for research exposure (non Gen Ed).
- We also intend to submit additional skill-building courses which may be upper division courses in addition to our current research-intensive designation. This change would allow students to gain meaningful research experience within their major or college, even if they have already completed general education or lower-division requirements.
- As a result, more students would be able to earn a Research Certificate within their college or major.

Summary

The College of Education seeks to expand exposure and skill-building opportunities beyond lower-division coursework, ensuring that transfer students and others can earn a Research Certificate through courses offered within their major.