

# Undergraduate Research Information



**Interested in doing chemistry research in a lab but don't know where to begin? Begin Here!**



## Step 1: Investigate

Start by investigating what kind of research is going on at Emory and going on in general. Visit faculty's research websites--what do you find interesting? What do you find exciting? Get started by taking a look at the [research in the Department of Chemistry](#).

### Attend events:

- Attend the [Symposia](#) at the end of each semester to learn more about what kind of undergraduate research is going on in the labs. Talk to the students and ask them about their experiences.
- Check out [Undergraduate Research Week](#) held each spring. This is a chance to learn more about what kind of research is happening all across the college. Attends talks, workshops, student panels and more!
- Take a look at what students are saying: [Stories from undergraduates in the chemistry labs \(Links to an external site\)](#).

### Explore Emory Programs and Resources:

- [Undergraduate Research Program: Student Resources](#)
- [Summer Research Information \(SURE Program\)](#) *Application deadline is late Jan/early Feb*
- [Undergraduate Research Programs Overview and Resources \(SIRE\)](#)

### Think about how you want to structure your research. Options include:

- **Volunteering** - Doing research on an ad-hoc basis to gain experience or join a lab mid-semester
- **Class Credit** - See [CHEM 399](#) , appropriate for an initial research experience
- **Work-study** - If your financial aid package includes a Federal Work-Study Award, it may be possible to earn it through undergraduate research work.
- **Research Partners Program** - RPP connects students interested in working on a research project with a faculty mentor who needs a research assistant.



## Step 2: Contact a PI

Once you've found a research lab that piques your interest, e-mail the faculty member to find out if there is an opportunity to join their lab. Be sure to include:

### 1. **Why you want to join the lab**

- Is a project they are working on particularly interesting?
- Are they using a technique you are eager to learn more about?

### 2. **Tie-ins to your previous experiences, if any**

- What relevant coursework (could include chemistry or other science & math) have you taken?
- Have you worked in other research labs?
- Did you participate in a science fair?
- Was there a specific project in a course at Emory that you really enjoyed?

### 3. **Your availability**

- When can you start
- How many hours a week can you work. *Most faculty will want a minimum commitment of at least 10 hours a week.*



### Step 3: Get started or Try again!

Not all labs have the same space availability so if your first interest doesn't work out, try again. Besides labs in Department of Chemistry, look for chemistry-related research in the Department of Biochemistry or other academic departments in the medical school, the Department of Physics, the Department of Environmental Studies and the Rollins School of Public Health.