

What is a Research Coach?

Description:

A research coach is a new paid student position available to both graduate and senior undergraduate students. Research coaches help instructors implement a research project for a first-year class by providing guidance to students as they plan, research, and present their research projects.

Benefits:

- Being hired as a research coach is a great way for students of any level to gain valuable mentoring experience with a different focus than when working as a teaching assistant.
- For senior undergraduates, it is a way to develop research abilities and build strengths in preparation for graduate studies or further contributions to research.
- For faculty, research coaches help provide personalized support to entry-level students as they develop research skills, perhaps for the first time.

Research Coaches:

- Work with an instructor in a specified class and may help students design a class-based research project, coach undergraduate students in completing the project, and facilitate opportunities for students to share their projects with an audience of peers;
- Answer student questions and guide and support students regarding research processes;
- Collaborate with the instructor and the students while students are planning, carrying out, and communicating their research;
- Receive training, some on-going support, and a stipend for set hours of work per three-credit course;
- May dedicate up to 10% of allotted time to providing formative feedback (marking and grading) to students regarding their research projects – if the instructor approves;
- Can hold this position in addition to a teaching assistantship, or another position on campus.

Get Involved:

Students—interested senior undergraduate and graduate students can let their professors or supervisor know. Having a potential research coach might show them they have the support needed to introduce a research project into their classes.

Faculty—can indicate to the Undergraduate Research Initiative Coordinator that they have a potential candidate in mind and make a recommendation for collaboration.