

Rubric: Undergraduate Student Research Assistantships (USRA)

Score Levels	Research Level	Research Component	Organization and clarity of application
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is well thought-out and supports undergraduate research Presents opportunities for student to think critically Has a clear goal related to the field of study Prepares student for research in the discipline 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research component is well thought-out and explained Significant use of research methodologies, applications and/or tools Includes mechanisms to keep student in adequate communication with supervising professor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information is clearly focused in an organized and thoughtful manner Information is constructed in a logical pattern to support student research
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is well thought-out and supports undergraduate research Presents one, or more, opportunity for student to think critically Has a clear goal related to the field of study Prepares student for research in some aspect of the discipline 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research component is thorough and transparent Presents some means for the student research experience to include application of methodologies, applications and/or tools Includes some means of communication between student and supervisor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project clearly indicates a research component for undergraduate student The information provided adequately indicates roles of student and supervisor
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports undergraduate research in some ways Includes some opportunity for critical thinking Project goal may be unclear Exposes student to few materials and resources Minimally prepares student for research in the discipline 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimally explains research component Low-level use of research experience including few methodologies, tools and/or applications Minimal communication between student and supervising professor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project has a research focus but does not necessarily identify a relevant role for student Information loosely supports the student research experience
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides an inconsistent research experience Does not provide an opportunity for critical thinking Lacks a clear goal Exposes student to limited material and resources Does not prepare student for research in the discipline 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not explain research component Minimal or insufficient research experience provided Does not sufficiently account for communication between student and supervising professor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project description is unfocused and unclear Information does not support undergraduate research experience Roles are inadequately explained

USRA applications that provide for meaningful experiences tailored to the students' education level are welcome. Awards are available to support students at any undergraduate level. Applicants may want to consider and comment on the role a student may take in the following aspects of research:

- setting criteria and contexts
- selecting questions and methodology
- establishing processes
- analyzing data and contextualizing/explaining
- interpreting and synthesizing data
- disseminating/showcasing findings