



## Effective Practices for Undergraduate Researchers

LUROP, the Loyola Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program, aims to facilitate quality undergraduate research between students and mentors and to bring students into a community of scholars within their field. Here are some effective practices LUROP promotes for undergraduate researchers.

- Approach research as a learning experience, setting a goal of not only learning content, but also developing skills you can apply in the future. See LUROP's list of learning objectives for undergraduate researchers for a general list of the skills you should consider. Take ownership of learning those skills.
- Communicate with your mentor about your expectations. Listen to their own expectations and goals for you (including work habits and time commitment), and formalize your working relationship through a learning agreement/research contract.
- Provide regular, useful reports to your mentor, and ask for regular, constructive feedback. Consider weekly meetings and monthly reports, and always focus on improving your skills.
- Where appropriate, ask your mentor questions and discuss your research to keep them in the loop and cultivate your academic communication skills.
- Discuss ethical and responsible research conduct with your mentor.
- Use LUROP, your mentor, and your colleagues to find opportunities to present your research at conferences, and to train yourself to deliver effective research presentations. Take advantage of LUROP workshops for these and other skills.
- Discuss grad school and career options with your mentor and others in your research network.
- Learn about compliance requirements and financial paperwork required for your research.