Falcon Scholars Mini-Forum

HOW TO

IDENTIFY YOUR AREA OF INTEREST

AND

FIND A MENTOR AND A PROJECT
You will learn things you might not learn in a classroom

Working on a research or creative project with a faculty or staff mentor is an opportunity for you to go beyond learning about a discipline and become actively involved in creating knowledge and new meaning within the discipline.
Identify your area of interest

Research is a hands-on way to explore different interests within your field. You may develop an idea of your interests based on class activities. Look and listen for announcements from faculty members seeking student researchers on bulletin boards, in classes, or at seminars.
Find a Mentor and Project

With whom would you like to work? Seek out a member of the UWRF faculty or staff, or perhaps a member of the community.

Identify a few faculty members who have similar interests.
Ask your potential faculty or staff mentor if s/he has time to supervise an undergraduate researcher. If the faculty or staff person does have availability, arrange a time to meet and discuss the options within your field.

During my research experiences, I learned countless laboratory techniques that are critical to my future career as scientist. These opportunities created a competitive application to graduate schools. Simply, I can never fully express the advantages undergraduate research has given me, nor will I ever be able to express my gratitude. –Rufino
Identify a current and important question to ask.

What would you like to research?
How would you best explain the significance of the project?

Be sure that what you propose is:
- **Specific**
- **Measurable**
- **Achievable**
- **Realistic**
- **Time-bound**