

Finding Research Opportunities for Engineering Students



UNIVERSITY OF
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Career Center

If you're a UGA student seeking a lab/research opportunity for major requirements, developing your graduate school materials, or simply because you're curious, be sure to follow the suggestions below on securing an on-campus opportunity.



You should be contacting professors as early as possible. Professors are busy—expect to email up to 20-35 faculty, while only receiving a few responses in return. Talk to professors who teach/have taught your courses to see if they have any open research roles.



Create or update your resume/CV to provide to faculty to showcase your skills and experiences; you may need to create a statement describing your research goals (sometimes requested).

Consider what subject(s) interest or engage you. Look for faculty by using the College of Engineering website. You can identify faculty with research projects in fields of interest to you by clicking on "Areas of Expertise" under the research tab. You can also search outside of your college for additional opportunities.



For independent research projects, there may be funding available for your research. Visit curo.uga.edu for more information on funding.

If a faculty member responds to your email, they may want to meet to further discuss your interest. Prepare for the meeting and consider some of the following questions to ask:

- What type of projects are available?
- Who would be my mentor?
- Are there group meetings I could attend?
- What projects are other undergraduates in the research group working on?
- Is there the potential to do an independent project and/or get academic credit*?
- How many hours would I be expected to work?
- What would my responsibilities be?



**For more details about receiving academic credit for a research role, visit curo.uga.edu*

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Here are a few samples and tips to help you professionally reach out to professors and create documents that may be needed to secure research roles.

Reaching out to faculty can help you find a research opportunity on campus. Use the following sample to help you craft an email inquiring about opportunities:

SUBJECT: Possible undergraduate research opportunities

Dear Dr. [Name],

My name is [name] and I am a [year, major] at the University of Georgia. I am writing to ask about opportunities for undergraduate research in your lab beginning [time period].

I have a GPA of [X.XX] and I have taken courses in [courses]. Additionally, I have experiences in [experiences]. My research/academic interests are in [interests].

I am especially interested in your previous work on [describe a paper or talk]. I would like to get involved in research in this area because it will help me to better prepare for [future goals].

I have attached my resume/CV to this e-mail, but if there is additional information that I have not included that you would like, I would be happy to provide it to you. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
[Your Name]
Major/classification

Resume/CV

- Showcase your coursework by including a section "RELEVANT COURSEWORK" to highlight relevant courses/labs you have taken
- Include any lab techniques, programs, or technical skills in your SKILLS section
- A CV is a type of resume most commonly used to apply for research or faculty positions in an academic setting
- A CV is typically longer in length and provides more detail than a resume -- it may include publications, presentations, research and teaching experiences, grants, fellowships, etc.

Find more resume/CV advice from our website: career.uga.edu

Research Goals

- Some faculty members may ask you for a description of your research goals. This document should be a brief statement highlighting research areas that you are interested in and your qualifications:
- What are your academic areas of interest?
 - What topics do you want to research?
 - Why do these interest you?
 - How do these fit into your professional goals?
 - What skills or experiences do you offer?
 - What is your availability to contribute to research?

This is not a required document, particularly if you have not participated in research before. May be for from students fulfilling lab requirements.