Undergraduate Advising and Research

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Undergraduate Advising and Research introduces students to the full intellectual richness of undergraduate study at Stanford, supports students in their academic and intellectual pursuits, and seeks to instill within them a deep sense of identity within and belonging to our community of scholars at Stanford. This means different things for different students at different times, leading to an emphasis on extended one-on-one interactions between students and advisers. The substance of these interactions flows from the scholarship and teaching of the broad intellectual community at Stanford.

The UAR staff includes professional advisers in Sweet Hall, the Athletics Academic Resource Center, and in the undergraduate residences. Freshmen are assigned to academic advisers (faculty and academic staff) according to their preliminary academic interest and residence. The professional advisers in Sweet Hall, the Athletics Academic Resource Center, and the undergraduate residences complement the role of the assigned advisers with a comprehensive understanding of the curriculum; they advise students broadly on their courses of study and long-term goals. Some freshmen receive enhanced academic support through participation in Expanded Advising Programs (EAP).

UAR functions include:

• overseeing the transition of freshmen/transfers into the university
• assistance with curriculum planning
• consultation on choosing a major
• advice on integrating research into an undergraduate program of study
• support for students considering and applying for merit-based scholarships and national fellowships
• practical advice on how to prepare for and apply to graduate and professional schools
• academic and personal advising related to academic performance
• guidance on policies and procedures concerning academic standing
• assistance with interpretation and application of academic rules and regulations
• referrals to campus tutoring resources and counseling offices

Scholarships and Fellowships, and Post-Baccalaureate Studies

Together with advisers at the Overseas Resource Center (http://stanford.edu/dept/center/orc) and the Haas Center for Public Service (http://studentaffairs.stanford.edu/haas), UAR advisers help prepare students to compete for merit scholarships and post-baccalaureate fellowships. UAR also administers campus nomination competitions for the Beinecke, Carnegie, Center for the Study of the Presidency, Jack Kent Cooke, Goldwater, Liebmann, Merage, Mellon Mays, Truman, and Udall scholarships. Binders containing applications of past years’ winners are available for review on the first floor of Sweet Hall and in the offices of Academic Directors.

UAR offers workshops and individual consultations on planning for graduate or professional studies (education, law, medicine, business) and on how to write personal statements, how to solicit letters of recommendation, and how to prepare for interviews.

Undergraduate Research

UAR sponsors and supports programs that encourage undergraduates to work individually with faculty on research, advanced scholarship, and creative projects. Programs are designed to serve students new to research and those with considerable research experience who are able to take on advanced, independent projects. See the Research Opportunities (http://www.stanford.edu/dept/undergrad/cgi-bin/drupal_ual/OO_research_opps_ResearchOpportunities.html) web site for more information.

Student Grant Programs

UAR offers research grants to registered Stanford undergraduates. Grants support faculty-mentored research projects, and are typically used to pay for research/creative supplies, travel, and room and board/ Major Grant and Chappell Lougee Scholarship recipients may include a stipend within their budget if they are working full-time on their project over the Summer Quarter.

For the 2012-13 academic year, students have access to the following grant programs:

• Small Grants provide for student projects that explore a topic of interest or contribute to the development of future intellectual pursuits. They are often used for smaller projects, preliminary research, and follow-up expenses associated with larger projects.
• Major Grants support larger projects that normally span several quarters. Funded projects typically culminate in an honors thesis or some other substantial capstone product that demonstrates a focused and intellectually rigorous perspective on the topic of interest. Major grant proposals are subject to a review process that includes input from faculty in the relevant departments.
• The Chappell Lougee Scholarship supports sophomores who wish to undertake research in the humanities, creative arts, and qualitative social sciences. Students receive a grant for full-time research under the supervision of a faculty mentor. In addition, UAR provides guidance for students to transform their research into a creative performance, a capstone or honors project, or post-baccalaureate study.
• Angel Grants assist students in producing a finished public creative work such as an art exhibit, film, stage production, or concert.
• Conference Travel Grants support students who have been invited to present their research at a professional or scholarly conference. The grants fund travel expenses to and from the conference, and normal conference registration. Students demonstrating financial need may also include conference-associated food and lodging in their budget. Normally, Conference Travel Grants are intended to match funds made available by the faculty mentor or some other source.

For current deadlines and program details, see the Student Grants for Research and Creative Projects (http://www.stanford.edu/dept/undergrad/cgi-bin/drupal_ual/OO_research_opps_Grants.html) web site. The application for any student grant consists of:

1. a student-authored project proposal, including a line-item budget
2. a letter of support written by a qualified member of the Stanford faculty
UAR may also consult student transcripts as well as outside faculty reviewers. Proposals are judged on intellectual significance, rigor and feasibility of project design, and evidence of student preparedness. The program is competitive, and not all good proposals can be funded.

UAR provides advising support for students considering a research grant, including proposal writing and project design consultation and advice on administrative policies. Students can view sample proposals at the UAR office. For more information, see the Student Grants for Research and Creative Projects (http://www.stanford.edu/dept/undergrad/cgi-bin/drupal_ual/OO_research_opps_Grants.html) web site.

Departmental and Faculty Sponsored Research Opportunities

Departments, interdisciplinary programs, and Stanford research centers use VPUE Departmental Grants for Undergraduate Research to support programs that provide undergraduates with mentorship and training in scholarship and research. Typically, departments pair students with a faculty member or faculty-led research group according to their mutual scholarly interests. Students conduct substantive, directed research on a particular aspect of the faculty member’s research project, and they meet frequently with their faculty mentors to discuss progress and future directions for the project. For more information and the Request for Proposals, see Faculty Grants on the Undergraduate Research (http://exploredegrees.stanford.edu/undergraduateeducation/uar/http://vpuefacultygrants.stanford.edu) web site. Students should consult directly with the departments and programs of interest to learn about these opportunities.

Similarly, individual faculty members may use VPUE Faculty Grants for Undergraduate Research. Faculty grants provide funding for undergraduates to work closely with faculty on a directed research project. Students gain valuable experience with the methods of inquiry and analysis in their chosen discipline, and are able to subsequently leverage this experience in pursuit of more independent projects or theses. For more information and the Request for Proposals, see Faculty Grants on the Undergraduate Research (http://exploredegrees.stanford.edu/undergraduateeducation/uar/http://vpuefacultygrants.stanford.edu) web site.