Is Research for Me?
Faculty in every department and students of every major at UW-Eau Claire are doing research: Art, French, Economics, Kinesiology, Latin American Studies, and Psychology to name a few. Students can and are doing original and impactful research in and out of their major.

If you are interested in doing research, you must:
- Take a proactive approach
- Commit
- Follow through
- Network
- Communicate
- Explore
- Be motivated

Take a Leap and Forge Who You Would like to Become
Step outside your ‘box’ and take a plunge. Forge who you would like to become through undergraduate research. In addition to contributing knowledge to the profession and developing research skills, undergraduate research fosters leadership skills and presessional qualities that employers and graduate schools are looking for. Listing undergraduate research on a resume or CV demonstrates that you have these skills and qualities.

Where to Start
Start often and start early! Some students start research their first year on campus. Your first step is to find a faculty member to work with. Most commonly, students work on faculty-driven research projects (73% in 2012-13). A faculty-driven research project may be an easier way to start, have a higher likelihood of being published, and might result in discovering your dream field (or a field you want no part of). But, if you have an idea of your own, feel free to pursue it!

There Are Several Ways to Find a Research Project – for Best Results, Do All of Them:
- Talk to peers doing research.
- Talk to your advisor or the chair of your department.
- Talk to faculty or staff you like or who have research interests that match yours.
- Attend CERCA every spring. Celebration of Excellence in Research and Creative Activity is our undergraduate research presentation event. In 2014, 607 students presented 343 different research projects.
- Browse the CERCA/Student Research Day Abstract Books from previous years.
- Talk to the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs: orsp@uwec.edu or 715-836-3405
- Attend a Seminar Series. Many departments have their own or you can attend a Faculty Forum Presentation.
- Be an enthusiastic student in class. Class is often where faculty look for research partners.
- Visit www.uwec.edu/orsp/research for more information.
What is Research?

“Research” is any in-depth scholarly or creative project in which a student engages in the scholarly work of the discipline with a goal of creating new knowledge or perspectives. Every research project has the following basic steps:

- Ask a question, pose a problem, or envision a creative work.
- Research how others have approached a similar problem and design your process.
- Find the answer or create the work.
- Communicate the knowledge or present the creative work.

The UW-Eau Claire Advantage

A major advantage of attending UW-Eau Claire is the opportunity to do undergraduate research. UW-Eau Claire has been designated the Center of Excellence for Faculty and Undergraduate Student Research Collaboration by the UW System Board of Regents. Put plainly, this means we are the heart of undergraduate research in Wisconsin. UW-Eau Claire provides opportunities to undergraduates that larger universities give primarily to their graduate students. Take advantage of this!

What Can Undergraduate Research do for Me?

- Help You Get Into Graduate School
- Help Get Your First Job
- Learn a Subject in Depth
- Learn Technical Skills
- Network
- Make Life-changing Connections
- Get to Know Your Professor(s)
- Try on a Discipline
- Find Out if Research is for You
- Travel
- Get Paid
- Get Published

Financial Support for Research

In most cases, funding is available to pay for resources and travel expenses you may need to do research. You may also apply to receive a stipend yourself! UW-Eau Claire has programs designed to help fund research:

- Over the summer
- During the academic year
- Across the globe

Financial Support for Travel

In the 2013-2014 academic year, The Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (just one source of research funding) helped fund travel for 289 students to present at professional and student research conferences across the country and even abroad: