

**How to Find Research Opportunities**

If you’re a Biochemistry and Molecular Biology major seeking lab/research opportunity for your major requirements, developing your graduate or pre-professional school materials, or simply because you’re curious, be sure to follow the suggestions below on securing an opportunity:

* You should be contacting professors as early as possible—expect to email 5 initial faculty, while only receiving a few responses in return.
* Consider what biochemistry topics(s) interest or engage you. Look for faculty with research projects in closely related fields.
* You will need to be dedicated and focused to find a position.

**How to Email a Research Professor**

SUBJECT: Possible undergraduate research opportunities

Dear Dr. [*Professor*],

My name is [*name*] and I am a [year,] Biochemistry 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*]  
UGA Email address  
Phone Numbers

**Notes on Communicating with Professors:**

* It is appropriate to ask professors you have never taken a class with to be involved in their research. It is a great idea to start looking for an opportunity by talking to your current and past professors, but you can contact any professor who is doing research that interests you. Before you contact the professor make sure that you read an overview of their research and prepare questions.
* Professors are very busy. If you approach them in person to ask about research opportunities, ask if this is a convenient time and be prepared to make an appointment. If you email, it may take a while for the professor to reply.
* Questions to consider 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?
  + What would my responsibilities be?
  + Have undergraduates attended or presented at conferences or workshops?

**Statement of Research Goals**

Some faculty members may ask you for a description of your research goals. This document should be about one page 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 larger professional goals?
* What skills or experiences do you offer?
* What is your availability to contribute to research?

Adding a statement of research goals in your request to faculty will help you stand out because it shows that you are being intentional about your choice in research, making you a more competitive candidate.

**Resume/CV Advice**

* Showcase your coursework by including a section entitled RELEVANT COURSEWORK which highlights 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. In addition to the basics that you would include on a resume, it is common to include publications, presentations, research and teaching experiences, grants, fellowships, and awards.

Find more resume/CV advice from the UGA Career Center Guide: <http://career.uga.edu/uploads/documents/UGACareerGuide.pdf>

**Where to Look for Opportunities**

<https://www.bmb.uga.edu/independent-research>

<https://curo.uga.edu/>

[http://ils.uga.edu/faculty/by-interdisciplinary-groups/#](http://ils.uga.edu/faculty/by-interdisciplinary-groups/)

Faculty biographies via Directory