

Threadgill's Undergrad Army

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Sign in & Grab Pizza

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Benefits of Undergrad Research!



Helps Us!

Helps You!

- ✧ Research experience!
- ✧ (CV)
- ✧ Problem solving / critical thinking
- ✧ Hands-on learning
- ✧ Is grad school right for me??
- ✧ Letters of recommendation

Writing Intensive



- ❧ BIMS rules...
 - ❧ BIMS 491 Writing Intensive – 3 credit hours, lots of assignments throughout semester [MAX 3 hours for graduation]
 - ❧ Consider LAUNCH (described shortly)
- ❧ BIO/GENE/etc. – ??
- ❧ STUDENT is responsible for due-dates
 - ❧ Send requirements to Team Leader and me
 - ❧ Make sure to complete each assignment in time to send to Team Leader and me – at LEAST 2 weeks in advance of deadline

LAUNCH



“goal of this program is to enable motivated undergraduates to participate in graduate-quality research or scholarly projects with the opportunity to communicate their findings as principal authors to the University's scholarly community. Upon completion of the program students are recognized with the Undergraduate Research Scholars distinction at graduation as well as on their official transcript, and receive an Undergraduate Research Scholars medallion as official graduation regalia.”

LAUNCH



- ❧ Application: Fall 2019
- ❧ 2 semesters, formal written thesis, publically present research (up to \$300 for travel expenses)
- ❧ To qualify:
 - ❧ Completed at least 60 hours of undergrad coursework
 - ❧ Have at least 24 hours at TAMU
 - ❧ Have/maintain minimum GPA of 3.0
 - ❧ Currently involved in / starting suitable undergrad project
- ❧ What do I do?
 - ❧ <http://ugr.tamu.edu/UGR/UGRS/Apply>
 - ❧ Application process starts in August
 - ❧ Prepare 1,000 word proposal for application

Expectations



❧ Check shyness at the door!

❧ You can still be an introvert & not be shy!

❧ REGISTRATION!

❧ Communication with Team Leader – Google calendar

❧ Showing up!

❧ Trainings completed by deadlines

❧ RETURNING STUDENTS: This all applies to you, too!

Expectations: Time



❧ Time Commitment

- ❧ Minimum 4 in lab/ week (0 or 1 credit hour)
- ❧ 8 hours in lab/week (2 credits)
- ❧ 12 hours in lab/week (3 credits)
 - ❧ Exception: Writing Intensive (9 hours in lab/week + writing ~3 hours/week)
- ❧ Treat it like a class

❧ Record your time in the Undergrad Log Book

- ❧ I don't want to have to track you down!!!
- ❧ STUDENT is responsible for recording time accurately

❧ Sick/Huge Exam

- ❧ Contact Team Leader
- ❧ Make up your hours later that week or the following week

Expectations: Schedule



- ❧ Again...Treat it like a class!
- ❧ Google Calendar
- ❧ Schedule conflict?
 - ❧ Change Google Calendar no later than the MONDAY of the week before!
- ❧ Consequence of not showing up / not notifying on-time
 - ❧ Make-up hours ASAP
 - ❧ 2 hours of additional chore work (i.e. freezer inventory)

Expectations: Mental Engagement

- ❧ Science is not passive!
- ❧ Don't be exhausted when you come in lab!
- ❧ Plan ahead
- ❧ Limit cell phone use
 - ❧ It breaks your focus!
 - ❧ (Headphones are OK – depending on situation)
- ❧ Are you going through the motions? Or are you critically thinking?
- ❧ Making mistakes? Ask yourself if you are “focused”
- ❧ Ask questions!

Fall Research??



- ❧ We want students to return!
 - ❧ Keep track of TOTAL research credits so you don't "max out"
 - ❧ However...research this semester does not guarantee selection for fall term

- ❧ You can recruit friends too!
 - ❧ Freshman/Sophomores especially

Lab Safety



- ❧ Lab Safety Walk-through for new students
- ❧ Close-toed shoes (pack some in your backpack)
- ❧ No Food/Drink in lab
- ❧ Dress Appropriately....
- ❧ Avoid strong colognes and perfumes
- ❧ Be “engaged” – are you about to do something dangerous?
 - ❧ Tell someone ASAP if something happens!

General Mouse House Considerations

- ❧ CITI training (for new students)
- ❧ Personal access to Mouse House only if you are on an AUP & have demonstrated responsibility
- ❧ Close-toed shoes
- ❧ No food/drink in facility
- ❧ No photography of any kind in facility
- ❧ Interaction with Health Crew / Caretakers
- ❧ Undergrads CANNOT escort “visitors/friends”



Communication



- ❧ New students – Rachel will coordinate with your team leaders on getting training completed
- ❧ Need help? Have questions?
 - ❧ Ask teammate!
 - ❧ Ask Team Leader
 - ❧ Ask other Threadgill Lab member
- ❧ Email etiquette
 - ❧ You are responsible for ALL information in EVERY email
 - ❧ “Respond” to specific emails instead of drafting a “brand new” email
 - ❧ Complete all tasks and email once, if possible
 - ❧ CC Team Leader when appropriate
 - ❧ Watch your replies – include the correct CC folks

What to do with your stuff?



Weekly Chores



- ❧ Lab this size needs everyone to pull their weight
- ❧ Each graduate student is assigned 1 or 2 weeks in semester
 - ❧ Chores are the first priority for your assigned week
- ❧ Check-off on the list
 - ❧ Not just at beginning of week...
- ❧ CLEANING & ORGANIZING is responsibility of everyone
 - ❧ Not just Lab Chore Team of the Week...or me...or Rachel

Keeping the lab safe & functional



- ❧ The lab must function as a whole...it's not just your work...or your team's work...ALL the projects have to be able to work efficiently
- ❧ Organized lab
 - ❧ Cluttered lab = lost samples + lost reagents + lost time + lost money
 - ❧ Shared space
 - ❧ Exception of the Lead or Dioxin-contaminated items...everything is "SHARED"
- ❧ If you see something, say something

Bench Etiquette



- ❧ With few exceptions, we have “Lab Supplies” not “Team Supplies”
- ❧ Leave bench cleaner than you found it
- ❧ Factor in “cleaning time” to your schedule
- ❧ Does anything need refilling?
 - ❧ Tips? Gloves? Paper towels? 70% EtOH?
- ❧ Returning reagents (including chemicals to chem shelf)
- ❧ Dumping ice buckets
- ❧ Throwing away trash
 - ❧ Empty chemicals go to Lauren
- ❧ NO UNLABELED items...is it H₂O or HCl?
- ❧ **Notifying Rachel if anything is getting “low”**

How to Improve?



- ❧ Team Leader or myself might meet with you occasionally to address concerns
 - ❧ Be *teachable*
 - ❧ Realize we are trying to help you (and us)

Rules Refresher



- ❧ **Golden Rule:** If you don't know...ASK!
- ❧ **Silver Rule:** If you make a mistake, it's OK...just tell someone!
- ❧ **Bronze Rule:** Clean up after yourself!





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