

Dear Colleagues,

We are pleased to announce the creation of a new undergraduate research opportunity for students majoring in chemistry, physics, and the geological science. The Presidential Undergraduate Research Scholars (PURS) program is an academic year research experience developed through funding from the University of Oregon's Presidential Chair and in collaboration with the Office of the Vice President for Research and Innovation.

PURS will fund ten UO students to conduct research under the guidance of a faculty mentor during the academic year. Students will receive a \$5,000 research stipend with an additional \$1,000 available for supplies and research expenses. The program is comprised of two components:

1. An academic year research experience where students complete 130 hours of faculty-mentored research each term.
2. Enrollment in a 1 credit PURS course for three consecutive terms.

The PURS program is open to all full-time UO undergraduate students that are Oregon residents, majoring in chemistry, physics, and the geological sciences, and have a minimum 3.0 GPA. Priority will be given to students that are underrepresented in the sciences (first generation, low-income, minority, etc...), have obtained junior year status (exceptionally talented sophomores may be considered), and have intentions to apply for graduate school.

The PURS course will meet one time per month during each term to engage in discussions on a variety of topics including career development, emerging research topics, research ethics, abstract writing, effectively communicating research, and applying for graduate school and distinguished scholarships. As part of the PURS course students will be required to attend a minimum of two departmental/institute seminars per term and complete a short summary. Students will also be required to complete a mid-term and final report on their research experience. All PURS students are required to enroll in the course, but enrollment will also be open to any student conducting research during the academic year with the endorsement and recommendation of their faculty mentor.

Applications for the PURS program will be made available in December and will be due in mid-February. If you know of an undergraduate student that would be a good fit for this program, please refer them to <http://richmondscience.uoregon.edu/> for more information.

If you are interested in hosting an undergraduate student in your lab as part of the PURS program, please contact Jeanne Basom at jbasom@uoregon.edu.

Sincerely,

Brad Shelton
Interim Vice President for Research and Innovation
Vice Provost for Budget and Planning
Professor of Mathematics

Geraldine Richmond
Presidential Chair and Professor of Chemistry