

Best Practices in Supporting Undergraduate Student Research Lewis-Clark State College Addendum

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The purpose of this document is to propose institution-specific recommendations for ongoing, sustainable support for high-impact student research at LC State that align with the goals of the College's Strategic Plan of increased applied and experiential learning in the form of undergraduate student research opportunities. Several Natural Science faculty members have active research groups that merit consideration for these research activities counting as part of their "in-load" teaching assignments.

Recommendation: Lewis-Clark State College executive administration pledge to support an ongoing 25% in-load teaching assignment for undergraduate research mentorship as part of the INBRE-5 renewal.

Specific Metrics

In order to be considered for in-load teaching support for research, we propose the following criteria must be met and maintained:

Minimum of three active undergraduate researchers

Students should be working a minimum of three hours per week (1 credit or its equivalent) to be considered active undergraduate researchers. While faculty are encouraged to mentor individual students on smaller projects or questions, an active research group should have continuity in mentoring students and consistent engagement on the scientific questions relevant to the lab.

Record of seeking funding to support student research

A variety of funding mechanism are available to support undergraduate research, both internal to LCSC, as well as from external sources. In particular, INBRE, HERC and Work Scholars provide accessible internal funding to support student activity and should be utilized.

This metric does not require successful funding, only demonstrated activity of seeking such funding on a regular basis.

High Quality Dissemination of Student Research & Scholarship

Active research groups should regularly disseminate their research results to the broader scientific community, with students acting as presenters and/or authors. Examples of appropriate means of dissemination include primary literature publications and poster and/or presentations at national or regional scientific meetings.

Internal LCSC-specific forums for research, such as the Annual Research Symposium, while beneficial to students for practicing presentation skills, do not communicate results to the broader scientific community and are NOT sufficient to meet this expectation.

Reporting

Faculty will report on the above metrics annually as part of their Annual Evaluation. Continuation of research as part of their inload teaching assignment is subject to review and approval by both the Division Chair and Dean of Liberal Arts & Sciences.