

BOB GRAHAM CENTER

OPPORTUNITIES FOR UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

→ **Connect. Engage. Explore.**

Research opportunities available through the Bob Graham Center for Public Service give UF students and faculty a space to analyze contemporary issues, collaborate, and redefine the path to a future of civic engagement, public leadership, and public service. Here, we share the opportunities to join our community and pursue meaningful research projects, programs, and passions.

WHERE TO BEGIN

Research can seem intimidating, so the Graham Center helps you find unique opportunities meant for you. In addition to the contact information available here, you are welcome to connect with the Center by coming to the second floor of Pugh Hall between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. any weekday. Often, your own initiative is the strongest path to find an area of research that interests you – and we are here to support you. Find a faculty member who shares your interest. Ask other students or your undergraduate advisor for advice. Examine the UF Center for Undergraduate Research database of prospective topics and other resources.

CIVIC SCHOLARS

The Civic Scholars program offers UF undergraduates an opportunity to engage in a semester of entry-level research. Participants gain a better understanding of critical issues impacting the state of Florida, and each receives a \$500 stipend. Spring 2022 scholars will pursue research on critical issues in civic engagement, public opinion, and public policy. Your work will be visualized in the Barometer Florida portal to help the public track measurable progress on our state's most pressing challenges. Civic Scholars should be prepared to enroll in a

WHY A RESEARCH EXPERIENCE?

Expand your undergraduate career beyond the classroom. Every student is unique, and research offers a means to develop a factual and analytical underpinning for your interests – no matter your major. You will learn how to design a research question, draw relevant observations from appropriate research methods, build relationships with faculty, improve your writing, present findings, and make real change.

Research can also benefit your own ability to pursue your interests in the future. Research experience consistently emerges as a top criterion for admission into graduate school and employment in competitive positions.

3-credit course instructed by Graham Center staff and affiliate faculty. Students will generate a series of research reports and gain an introductory understanding of quantitative and qualitative research approaches.

HASKELL FACULTY RESEARCH AWARD

The Haskell Faculty Research Award program supports a UF student and faculty member's cooperative research project related to the Center's principles of civic engagement, public leadership, and public service. Proposals are welcome from all academic units at UF. The research project will result in a product published in the public sphere to advance understanding of the issue under examination. Faculty members are awarded up to \$3,000 to support the research, and undergraduates receive \$750 for each semester of the project's duration up to a total of three semesters (summer may count as one semester).

Students, be sure to reach out to a professor if this is of interest. Proposals must be submitted to the Bob Graham Center by October 15, 2021. Award recipients will be announced on November 1, 2021.

REUBIN ASKEW SCHOLARS

The Reubin Askew Scholars initiative, named for former Florida Governor Reubin Askew, identifies an outstanding cohort of students selected for their commitment to community service and civic engagement. Askew Scholars take courses in public policy, receive intensive leadership training, and work with

a mentor to help prepare them for a life of civic involvement. Scholars receive \$2,000 to support a significant year-long research project. The faculty mentor also has access to funds to support professional development. All majors at UF are invited to apply. The GPA requirement is 3.0 and above. To determine eligibility, students should review the criteria on our website.

INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

All International Studies students complete a substantial research project as part of the major. Most accomplish this through the Senior Research Seminar (INS 4930), where INS faculty lead students through a semester-long, stepwise approach to building subject matter expertise and composing a scholarly paper. Students may also complete an independent research project under faculty guidance as part of an internship, research, or study abroad experience. In either case, the product is a high-quality research project that students can be proud of and use as a writing sample for job or graduate school applications. For specific information about the International Studies seminar, contact Dr. Tim Karis, Academic Coordinator, tkaris@ufl.edu, 305-237-1087.

Contact: Dr. Matthew Jacobs, Director at the Bob Graham Center for Public Service, mjacobs@ufl.edu.



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