2023-2024 Center for Undergraduate Research (CUR) Ambassador Application

Please submit your responses to: https://forms.gle/vHghCNpcKnRqXwma9

Required Short Response Questions (250-500 words each):

1. What previous experience(s) qualify you for this position? Do you have any unique or technical skills of particular value?
2. Are you currently involved in undergraduate research? If not, what are your plans in becoming involved; what steps have you taken to find a research position?
3. Where do you see yourself as a CUR Ambassador and why? Please refer to the Committee Overview section beginning on the third page of this document. Be specific in your response.
4. What ideas do you have to help CUR expand undergraduate research at the University of Florida? You can expand upon current events or projects, or feel free to get creative!

Choose ONE of the following (250-500 words):

- What group of undergraduate students do you think are underrepresented in research, and how would you target this group?
- What experiences in your life have provoked your interest in research, and where do you hope research will take you?

If you need assistance with your resume, the Career Resource Center is available to help.

Deadline: Monday, September 18, 2023 at 11:59pm
CUR Ambassadors are a diverse group of undergraduate leaders who have a passion for making a positive impact on every aspect of undergraduate research. We serve as official representatives of the Center for Undergraduate Research (CUR) to other organizations on campus and UF faculty and administration. CURBS holds advising hours for students, performs educational outreach at primary schools, hosts research-focused events and workshops, and connects students to faculty across all fields. As CUR Ambassadors, we are committed to maintaining ourselves as the top research institution in Florida while working to become the best undergraduate research institution in the country.

**CUR Ambassador Application FAQ**

**Do I need to be involved in research to be a CUR Ambassador?**

We do not require research experience to apply to be a CUR Ambassador, but we highly recommend it. If you do not have research, that is ok! Ambassadors who are accepted will be expected to obtain research while in the organization, by the end of their first semester in the organization. Other CUR Ambassadors, such as Peer Advisors, can help you look for research if you are having difficulties. As a representative of the Center for Undergraduate Research Board of Students, research should be a priority for you.

**What is the time commitment? What are the REQUIRED events?**

About 18 hours a semester, depending on the committee. All new Ambassadors are required to attend a training retreat. Ambassadors are also required to attend biweekly, one-hour GBMs throughout the semester, held on Mondays at 7pm. Ambassadors are also expected to staff a one-hour shift at the Research Expo (Fall), Fall Symposium, and Spring Symposium.

**I do research in Business/Arts/Humanities, can I still apply?**

We invite students of ALL majors and career paths to apply. Our current Ambassadors represent fields from Art History to Microbiology, and we are looking to become even more diverse!
I am a freshman/transfer/online student, can I apply?
Yes! We welcome applications from any UF undergraduate student.

How do I apply to be on the CURBS Executive Board?
Applications for open positions on the CURBS Executive Board open near the end of every Spring semester. Applications will be available only to CUR Ambassadors.

If accepted, will I have to reapply every cycle?
No. As long as you remain an active member, you will be a CUR Ambassador until you graduate.

Committee Overview:

Workshops:
The Workshops committee is responsible for planning and executing weekly events during the Fall and Spring semesters. These events can come in many forms, including lectures, discussions, and panels. The goal of these workshops is to provide in-depth information and guidance on many aspects of research for students of all majors and backgrounds, such as developing a timeline for research progress, applying for a Summer REU, and discussing forms of research in the Humanities.

University Liaison Council (ULC):
The University Liaison Council is a group of student representatives that collaborate with colleges at UF to uniquely cater to their needs and increase the quality of undergraduate research within each college. Liaisons work directly with college faculty to create research initiatives, further student outreach, and support underrepresented areas within research. Ambassadors in ULC also have the convenience to work based on their own schedule in order to create events with their college.

Educational Outreach (EO):
The Educational Outreach committee aims to develop passion for discovery and experimentation in Gainesville youth. Serving children from various backgrounds across several elementary and middle schools, our weekly science clubs inspire and encourage learning for all students. From extracting the DNA of a strawberry to creating crystalline creatures, our interactive experiments and lessons combine the arts and sciences to provide a holistic approach to learning. Our new high school initiatives provide mentorship and support for students seeking to develop academically and professionally. Our Ambassadors’ diverse
research experiences aid in implementing these aspects of inclusivity in our community’s education.

**Public Relations (PR) and Multimedia (MM):**
The Public Relations and Multimedia committee is responsible for managing CUR’s interactions with the University of Florida community. In this committee, you will learn about and assist in social media management, website development, photography, videography, and graphic design. These transferable skills will enhance your resume for any position you apply for in the future and increase your interaction with the UF community. The committee is flexible with busy schedules, as most work is done remotely.

**Peer Advising (PA):**
Through Peer Advising, CURBS seeks to help undergraduates in all disciplines find research opportunities, enhancing their undergraduate experiences overall. Peer advisors meet one-on-one with students, in-person or online, to help them find research positions, apply to research scholarships and programs, create outstanding oral and poster presentations, and develop effective resumes. Peer advisors also help students navigate challenges that may arise during the research process. CURBS peer advisors are experienced undergraduate researchers who are passionate about helping students find enriching research opportunities and must be available to help in the CUR office during hours of operation.

**Campus Outreach (CO):**
The Campus Outreach committee is responsible for promoting involvement in the undergraduate research environment here at the University of Florida. Ambassadors who are a part of Campus Outreach are often the first face of research to many students, as they will present in classrooms, organizational meetings, virtual events, and other large-scale events such as Preview. Campus outreach members also host tabling events to promote peer advising and other CURBS events. This committee is an excellent opportunity to hone your public speaking skills. The goal of Campus Outreach is to reach and excite as many individuals as possible about the available research opportunities.

**Special Projects:**
The Special Projects committee aims to promote research through hosting CURBS sponsored large-scale events. The Special Projects committee will assist in planning the Fall Research Expo, Fall/Spring Undergraduate Research Symposium, and the Florida Undergraduate Research Leadership Summit (FURLS). The Expo and Symposium occur in October and November, respectively, while FURLS is held early on in the spring semester. The Expo is a networking event for undergraduates to meet faculty who are conducting research. The Symposium is an opportunity for undergraduates to present their research. FURLS is an intercollegiate summit where undergraduate research leaders from universities across the state discuss student-led initiatives to promote undergraduate research. Members of the committee will assist the Directors of Special Projects with the preparation/ planning for all events. In addition, ambassadors helping out with this initiative will have the opportunity to brainstorm new ideas to enhance the impact of these events.
Access:
The Access Committee seeks to ensure that CURBS prioritizes different perspectives, backgrounds, and majors in every facet of the organization and its outreach. Members will promote the importance of understanding and engaging with the experiences of underrepresented groups in research spaces at UF and beyond. The Ambassadors collaborate with other committees, members of the Executive Board, and the CUR office to maintain an open dialogue about issues that are prevalent in CURBS and at the University of Florida.

If you have any questions regarding our application or CUR, please email CURBS@aa.ufl.edu.