

University of Illinois
School of Chemical Sciences Career Services
105 Noyes Laboratory
505 S. Mathews Ave. Urbana, IL 61801
217 333 1051
careers.scs.illinois.edu



FOLLOW UP

- If a faculty member requests anything of you, be sure to respond and forward that information immediately
- If you do not receive a response two weeks after you've sent your initial email, follow up with a shorter email again expressing your interest and saying that you look forward to hearing from them
- If you do not receive a response 10 days to 2 weeks after that, go in person to the lab and look for a graduate student from the lab (most labs have websites that include pictures of all group members) and talk to the graduate students about your interest in doing research



UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

WHAT IS IT?

- Opportunity to apply classroom learning to actual research and gain experience related to your field
- Generally a minimum of 2 semesters is preferred by faculty
- Competitive and limited...so be sure to apply several months before the semester in which you'd like to research

HOW TO APPLY

- FIND PROFESSORS YOU'RE INTERESTED IN
- WRITE A GREAT COVER LETTER AND RESUME
- FOLLOW UP



THINGS TO KNOW

- Some positions are paid, most are not paid and some offer academic credit
- For questions about academic credit, doing a senior thesis, or departmental distinction, speak with your PI (principal investigator/faculty supervisor)
- You may want to consider offering to start as a volunteer in order to work your way into an official undergraduate research position

FIND PROFESSORS

- Professors or TAs whose classes you've had
- Search faculty directories for faculty involved in interesting research topics
 - Chemistry: chemistry.illinois.edu/directory/faculty-by-type
 - CHBE: chbe.illinois.edu/directory/
- Positions posted on bulletin boards or websites

(You will find the majority of positions by directly contacting professors or TAs/graduate students!)

YOUR APPLICATION

- Write a great cover letter email (examples in SCS Career Services)
- Attach your résumé as a pdf
- Attach your unofficial transcript if you're a major and/or have a strong GPA in major courses