



EMORY
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Undergraduate Research Programs

SIRE Program: Faculty Information

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Program Overview

The Scholarly-Inquiry and Research Experience (SIRE) Program connects second- and third-year students interested in working on a research project with a faculty mentor who needs a research assistant. Students in the humanities, arts, social sciences, and sciences are encouraged to apply. Students work closely on a faculty member's research project before they undertake their own independent research. This is a program that is geared towards students who are entering research for the first time and have minimal research experience. The program offers weekly classes on research skills and other support to help students be effective researchers. The SIRE Program enables students to understand what research in a discipline looks like up close, work closely with a faculty member on a faculty led research project, be a part of a multidisciplinary community of undergraduate researchers, and gain vital experience communicating research through public speaking and poster presentations.

SIRE 299

SIRE undergraduate students register for the SIRE 299 class in both the Fall and Spring semesters. The class meets weekly on Tuesdays, 4:00 - 5:00 pm. The class covers topics from professional etiquette to general research skills including communication skills, common interview mistakes, mentor-mentee relationships, time management, problem solving and more. This course is led by a Graduate Fellow.

Grad Fellows

Doctoral students lead the interdisciplinary SIRE 299 sections. They provide educational programming, one-on-one mentoring, and workshops on research and professional development topics. The fellows are assisted by Peer Mentors, undergraduate students who have previously completed the SIRE Program. A Graduate Fellow will contact you throughout the year to see how your SIRE undergraduate student is progressing in his/her research space and any additional support she/he may need.

Mentor-Mentee Contract

At the beginning of the fall semester or shortly after a mentor commits to working with a SIRE undergraduate student, the student will be required to submit a Mentor-Mentee contract. The contract will contain guiding questions, but the mentor and the mentee will determine the research goals, learning objectives, and expectations for the year. The student should reach out to set up a meeting with his or her mentor to complete the contract.

Building the Mentor-Mentee Contract is your chance to set clear expectations for work hours, involvement with the research project, communication, etc. Students may work a maximum of 15 hours per week. If you have any issues or concerns throughout the year with the student or the program, please do not hesitate to contact the Associate Director, Timothy Raines, or the student's Graduate Fellow. We hope that the SIRE Program will be a rewarding experience for both the student and the faculty mentor.

Grades

Students receive a Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grade for SIRE 299. The Graduate Fellows are responsible for submitting students' grades. Grading decisions are made based on input from the faculty mentor. Mentors feedback on the student's performance will be collected at the end of each semester.

Compensation

All students are registered for 1 credit for SIRE 299 at the beginning of the semester. Students may then choose to receive work study compensation for their research (if eligible) or additional credit hours.

Work Study

Students who are eligible for federal work study may choose to receive financial compensation for their research or they may choose to receive course credit for their research. If a student chooses to utilize work study, the student will be compensated through a combination of federal work study and URP program funds. If a student's work study funds are exhausted, the student will be able to participate in the program for course credit.

Research for Credit

All students are registered for 1 credit for SIRE 299 at the beginning of the semester. Students who choose to do research for credit will receive a credit adjustment later in the semester based on the number of hours of research conducted during the semester. Additional hours reflect the work done in their research space. The scale for credit allotment is as follows:

- SIRE 299 class + 3-5 hr./week = 1 credit
- SIRE 299 class + 6-8 hr./week = 2 credits
- SIRE 299 class + 9-11 hr./week = 3 credits
- SIRE 299 class + 12-15 hr./week = 4 credits

Assignments

Several key assignments will be completed throughout the year to facilitate the student's development as a researcher.

Spring Symposium

All students are required to create a poster and present at the Spring Symposium. The symposium will be held during Undergraduate Research Week in late April. Students will register for the symposium in mid-March for either a poster or oral talk. URP will provide poster design instruction and assistance both during and outside of class time.

Students can print one poster at no cost through [Emory College print services](#). They will be assigned a time to submit their poster for printing starting about two weeks before the symposium. It is common for students' research projects to be unfinished at this point; however, that should not affect their ability to produce a well-designed poster. Progress in the research project between the time of printing the poster and the symposium can be communicated orally during their presentation. If the student is unable to complete their poster in time for the free printing deadline, they may print elsewhere at their own expense or with the help of their faculty mentor.

Research Portfolio

The students will compile a digital research portfolio containing many of their assignments from the class. The portfolio will contain a CV, personal statement, abstract, research elevator speech, symposium poster, and blog post. The Grad Fellows will provide instruction for creating each of these elements during the weekly class meetings.