

"The one-on-one mentoring of students in research is the most important thing we can do in preparing them for future careers in science." – Dr. Mark Wicholas, Former WWU Chemistry Department Chair (1982-2007).

I'm interested in research, how can I get involved?

- Meet all prerequisites for research courses.
- Learn about the different types and areas of research being done in the department.
- Identify a research area of interest with a particular faculty member. See *faculty profiles on the Chemistry Department website: cse.wvu.edu/directory/chemists*
- Contact one or more faculty member(s) to discuss possibility of joining their research group.
- Faculty are almost always excited to talk about research with interested students.
- After acceptance to a research group, complete the "[Research Credit Permission Form](#)" online. *This form must be completed each quarter you wish to register for research credit.*

Most undergraduates participate in research on some level. The majority of research participants seek credit for the work they perform.

- No experience, aside from academic courses, is necessary.
- All students are welcome to seek research participation, regardless of declared major.
- Students will join an existing research project. No big idea necessary!

Expectations for time spent and work done for research credit should be discussed and arranged between the student and faculty supervisor, to determine the number of credits sought.

Each "credit" of research is a minimum commitment to 3 hours of research work (determined by the faculty supervisor) per week, through the period of the quarter.

Credits Sought	Hours/Qtr (12 wks)
1	30 (2.5 hrs/wk)
2	60 (5 hrs/wk)
3	90 (7.5 hrs/wk)

Occasionally, research projects will extend beyond the available formal courses that offer research credit. In these instances, students may continue as a lab/research volunteer; or students may seek research credit under an independent study permit. See Program Coordinator for details.

Why should I join a research group?

The Chemistry Department at WWU offers a broad spectrum of research opportunities for undergraduates. This allows degree recipients to graduate with hands-on experience in a university level research lab.

Participants often present research results at local and/or national professional meetings. Many undergraduates appear as co-authors on professional research publications.

Undergraduate research affords students a unique opportunity to develop skills in their desired field; which is highly valued by potential employers, graduate schools, and post professional programs, such as medical and pharmacy schools.

RESEARCH COURSES AVAILABLE

****All courses are S/U grading and are not calculated into your major GPA****

Course	Credit(s)	Description	Prerequisites
CHEM 201 Independent Research	1-3	Undergraduate research, under faculty supervision. Written report required. Repeatable up to a maximum of three quarters.	CHEM 351 or concurrent and permission of faculty supervisor.
CHEM 301 Independent Research	1-3	Undergraduate research, under faculty supervision. Written report required. Repeatable up to a maximum of three quarters.	30 credits of chemistry and Permission of faculty supervisor.
CHEM 401 Independent Research	1-3	Undergraduate research, under faculty supervision. Written report required. Repeatable up to a maximum of three quarters.	CHEM 461 or 471 (or concurrent) and permission of faculty supervisor.
CHEM 405 Intensive Writing	1	Intensive writing in chemistry or biochemistry. Concentrated study of associated topic and a substantial expository paper.	CHEM 401, or 471, or 494, or 498 (or concurrent) and permission of faculty supervisor.
CHEM 498 Honors Research	3	Oral Presentation and honors thesis required, resulting in advancement to departmental honors candidacy (application required).	6 credits of chemistry research courses (4XX level) and permission of faculty supervisor.