



Faculty/Student Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) Guide

Provided by the Career and Internship Coordinator
Science and Pre-Health
Florida Southern College

Florida Southern College
111 Lake Hollingsworth Dr.
Lakeland, FL 33801

p. (863) 680-6242
f. (863) 680-3970

lalbaum@flsouthern.edu
<http://www.flsouthern.edu/pre-health-science-advising>

What is an REU?

REU stands for Research Experience for Undergraduates. An undergraduate research experience is defined as an inquiry or investigation conducted by an undergraduate student that makes an original intellectual or creative contribution to the discipline (*Council for Undergraduate Research*). Most REU experiences take place over the summer months with applications due in late fall/early spring, prior to the experience.

REU Benefits

There are a multitude of benefits from completing an REU experience, some of which include:

- 1) Enhances student learning through mentoring relationships with faculty
- 2) A fun way to increase career preparation
- 3) Develops critical thinking, creativity, problem solving and intellectual independence
- 4) Develops an understanding of research methodology
- 5) For summer REUs you have the opportunity to travel to new places and meet new people (*and many include a stipend and housing*)

Learning Outcomes

At the conclusion of the REU students should be able to:

- Articulate how the REU relates to the student's educational goals.
- Apply concepts learned in the classroom to the REU setting.
- Integrate and synthesize knowledge from diverse disciplines, courses and areas of experience to enhance their classroom education.
- Critically assess primary scientific papers related to the internship area of interest.
- Utilize technology in reviewing the scientific literature, obtaining current information, and accessing databases.
- Develop appropriate workplace behaviors and attitudes.

Additional learning outcomes may be assigned by the student's faculty advisor and/or department.

REU Requirements

Student Eligibility

To participate in an REU, the student must:

- Have completed a minimum of 12 credits at Florida Southern College
- Have obtained a minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA
- Obtain approval from their department chair
- ***If completing for academic credit:*** the student must have obtained sophomore standing prior to the start of the experience and satisfy all additional departmental requirements – students should see their faculty advisor for additional information.

Student Responsibilities

- Work conscientiously under the direction of the supervisor and comply with all rules, policies and procedures of the Internship site.
- Report serious problems, including physical, safety and personnel, to the REU Supervisor and the FSC Career and Internship Coordinator.
- Present at the Science and Pre-Health Internship Showcase, or other venue as dictated by your Faculty Advisor.
- Complete the FSC Post-Internship Survey (this online survey will be emailed to you from Institutional Research at the end of the semester.)
- ***If completing for academic credit:*** complete all FSC academic assignments as outlined by the Faculty Advisor and satisfy all department requirements.

Additional Requirements for For-Credit Experiences

For the purposes of this document, REUs are formal programs generally approved by the National Science Foundation (NSF) or other reputable agency. To be considered for academic credit, the experience should incorporate:

- 40 hours onsite for each credit hour sought
- A sponsoring faculty from FSC who approves the experiences, provides support/mentorship, reviews student performance, and assigns and evaluates readings, written assignments, and presentations.
- An experienced on-site supervisor who meets regularly with the student to provide feedback

All experiences must be approved by the sponsoring FSC faculty *prior* to the start of the semester.

REU Approval

Students who obtain an REU and do **NOT** wish to earn academic credit at FSC for the experience should simply notify the Science and pre-Health Career and Internship Coordinator of the experience by emailing lalbaum@flsouthern.edu. No official agreement forms are required to be submitted to FSC if the student is not completing the REU for academic credit at FSC.

Students who wish to earn academic credit at FSC for their REU experience, must complete all steps below must be completed PRIOR to the start of the semester:

1. Review the Eligibility and Responsibility Information for REUs
2. Obtain a qualifying experience
 - a. See the Science and Pre-Health Career and Internship coordinator if you need assistance.
3. Fill out the REU Agreement Form
4. Meet with your Faculty Advisor to obtain their signatures on the REU Agreement Form
 - a. Ensure that you review the learning outcomes and goals for the experience with your faculty advisor
5. Obtain a signature from your Department Chair
6. Scan and **email** a copy of the final agreement to the Science and Pre-Health Career and Internship Coordinator at lalbaum@flsouthern.edu
7. Ensure your faculty advisor registered you for the correct course (Biology students: BIO 4960 for Fall or Summer C and BIO 4961 for Spring; Chemistry students: CHE 4960) during registration

At the Culmination of the REU

1. Present at the Science and Pre-Health Internship Showcase, or other venue as dictated by your Faculty Advisor
2. Complete all requirements assigned by your Faculty Advisor and/or department
3. Complete the FSC Post-Internship/REU Survey (this online survey will be emailed to you from Institutional Research and/or the Science and Pre-Health Career and Internship Coordinator at the end of the semester)
4. Encourage the REU Mentor to complete the Evaluation of the Student and send to the Faculty Advisor and Science and Pre-Health Career and Internship Coordinator (form can be found on the website and can be provided by the Science and Pre-Health Career and Internship Coordinator)