Undergraduate research provides students with the chance to:

- work closely with a faculty mentor
- deepen their understanding of important real-world problems
- build skills vital for graduate school and careers

The University of Illinois is one of the nation’s top research institutions, with annual expenditures of more than $600 million. The options to pursue research as an undergraduate in the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences (NRES) are endless!

Undergraduate Research Opportunities

FACULTY MENTORSHIP EXPERIENCES
NRES undergraduates frequently conduct research with NRES faculty members and scientists at the Illinois Natural History Survey. In addition, students have worked with scientists from the Illinois State Geological Survey, Illinois Sustainable Technology Center, and Illinois Water Survey, and with faculty in other academic departments. All NRES faculty members have research obligations in addition to their teaching, providing undergraduates with a wide range of research opportunities.

RESEARCH INTERNSHIPS
NRES undergraduates have been very successful in the selection process for the amazing summer research internship with the National Great Rivers Research and Education Center. Multiple NRES majors have been chosen each year.

OFFICE OF UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH
The University of Illinois emphasizes the importance of undergraduate research and supports an office dedicated to fostering opportunities and supporting students pursuing research projects. The Office of Undergraduate Research hosts an undergraduate research symposium annually and provides grants to support student research expenses and the cost of traveling to present at scientific meetings.

COLLEGE OF ACES UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SUPPORT
The College of ACES makes research opportunities widely available to undergraduate students. The college offers the ACES Undergraduate Research Scholarship Program, a Travel Award, the James Scholar Program, and i-ACES (inquiry-ACES), a premier undergraduate research journal founded by the Academy of Teaching Excellence in the College of ACES to advance undergraduate research.

NRES students contribute to a variety of research projects:

Urban environmental equity
Predicting the levels of chemicals affecting taste and odor of drinking water
Study of waste management practices in campus sororities
Analysis of carbon accounting methods
Breeding ecology of waterbirds and wading birds
Assessing fish habitat
Effects of drought on nutrients in rivers
Impact of flooding on microbial denitrification in wetlands

To learn more, go to NRES.ILLINOIS.EDU or email nres@illinois.edu.