

Undergraduate Research in the College of Science



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Eberly College
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Students typically ask...

- ❑ Why should I join a research lab?
- ❑ When should I join a research lab?
- ❑ What are the prerequisites for joining a lab?
- ❑ How can I apply to do research?
- ❑ How should I contact a professor?
- ❑ What types of research can undergrads do?
- ❑ Should I stay in one lab, or move around?
- ❑ What resources are there to support undergrad research?

Why should I join a research lab?

- ❑ Community / network of peers
- ❑ Exposure to research
- ❑ Contribute to the creation of new knowledge
- ❑ Sets you apart from other students
- ❑ Letters of recommendation



When should I join a research lab?

- Anytime... (earlier is better)
- Don't over-commit in your first year
- Early exposure increases retention (connection to science)
- Build confidence and skills in research



What are the prerequisites for joining a lab?

- ▣ There are no formal prerequisites
- ▣ This will vary between labs
- ▣ Starting positions don't assume science skills



How can I apply to do research?

- ❑ Wage payroll
- ❑ Research credit (294/296, 494/496)
- ❑ FURP/WISER/MUER
- ❑ Research Opportunities for Undergraduates



How should I contact a professor?

- Be professional
- Explain why you want to do research (research the lab)
- Set up an appointment:
 - Approach your professors after class
 - Email
- Connect with undergrads / grads in lab
- Apply to job postings

What types of research can undergraduates do?

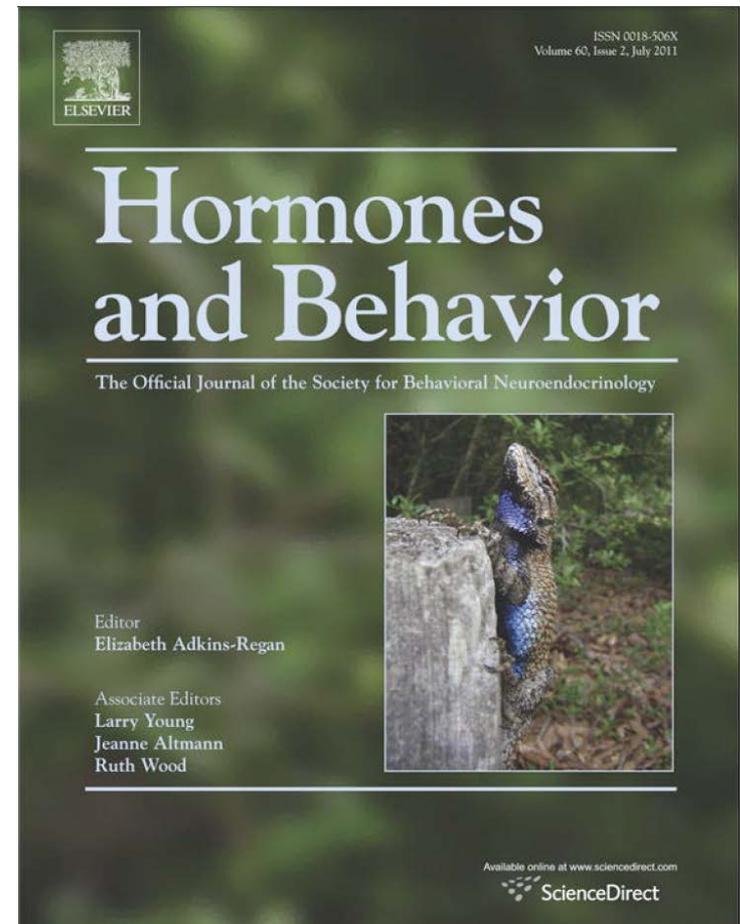
□ Anything.....!



Invader danger: Lizards faced with novel predators exhibit an altered behavioral response to stress

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Should I stay in one lab, or move around?

- Benefits to both
 - Longer = more familiar with research = more independence
 - More labs = greater exposure to different research (independence still possible)



What resources are there to support undergrad research?

- Undergraduate Research Support funds (to faculty)
- Discovery Grants (summer research support – due Feb)
- Poster Exhibit (fall and spring)
- Conference Travel Support
- SCIRES (Science Research Distinction - thesis)