INFORMATION THAT MAY HELP GET AN UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH POSITION

Faculty member:

Last Name  SHORTRIDGE  First Name:  RANDALL D.

1. What do you look for in a potential undergraduate researcher?

   Being self-driven and capable of going things independently. Moreover, there should be a genuine interest in doing research for the enjoyment rather than solely to further career goals.

2. What are the best times of the year for students to look for a spot in your lab?

   Near the start of each semester, but not limited to that.

3. What do you expect from an undergraduate researcher?

   Genuine interest in the project: ability to interact with the graduate students in the lab; ability to operate independently with guidance from the graduate students and me.

4. What can the student expect to be doing in your lab?

   (i) Laboratory training in a variety of molecular techniques as well as training in experimental design and critical thinking, (ii) credit in independent study: (iii) in rare instances, payment through work-study or programs such as REU from NSF.

5. What is the best way to approach you about getting research in your lab?

   See me or my graduate students personally. Graduate students in my research lab have a voice on who comes in.

6. What kind of repayment can the student expect?

   Usually credit in independent study, the benefits of the experience, and a letter of recommendation to assist in furthering their career.

7. If course credit is given, what does it take to get an A?

   The student needs to spend adequate time in the lab to carry out a meaningful project and show progress. Progress is not measured solely on obtaining valuable research data, but on moving a project forward.

8. Do you have room in your lab now, or foreshadow when you will?

   I currently have two undergraduate research assistants *URA’s) in my lab and these are directly supervised by two of my senior level graduate students. Normally, I do not expect to have more than two at a time.