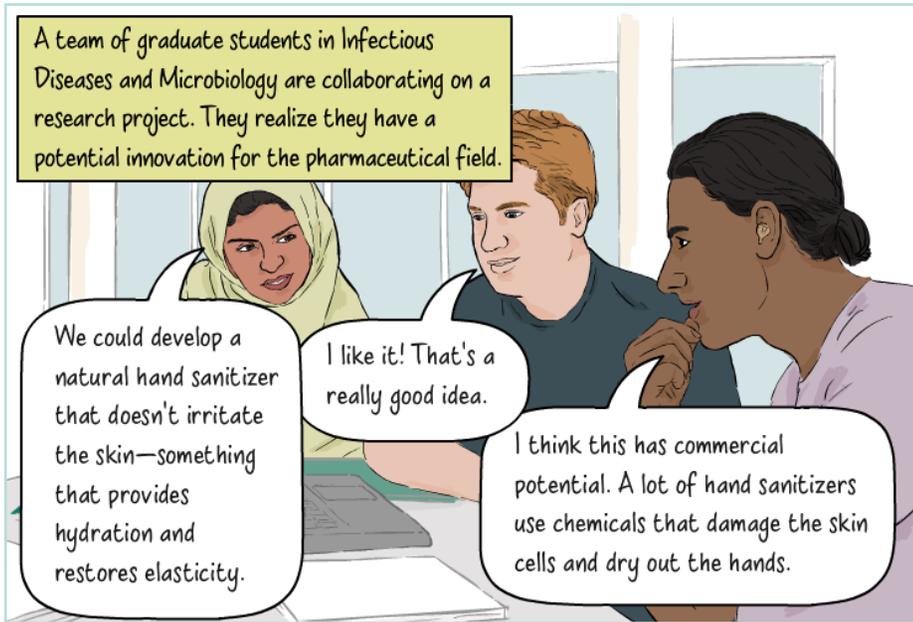




# Research as a Transferable Skill



## Prepare students to develop a research-based mindset for academic and professional success

Higher education is increasingly concerned with preparing students for the workforce, with a new focus on integrating essential professional skills into undergraduate education. At the same time, an increase in attention on undergraduate research has drawn attention to pervasive skill gaps in this area.

**Research as a Transferable Skill** is an online course that focusses on the professional competencies required for those planning to pursue a career in research and related fields. It helps students enhance their long-term employability by developing a 'researcher mindset', and develops understanding of the transferable skills they will need for a successful career in research.

- Ensures undergraduates understand the benefits of developing a research-based mindset for both academic and professional success
- Supports the future of the workforce by preparing graduates to transfer critical research skills into the professional context
- Helps universities attract top talent by offering online support to students engaged in research training to supplement and enhance their core curriculum learning
- Empowers students with essential professional skills that can be retained beyond education
- Supports teachers with tools to aid their students in gaining transferable skills



**15 courses:**

12 for undergraduates  
3 for faculty



**Course time:**

17 hours of online material, with over 30 hours of additional study

### Lead advisors



**Dr. Julio Rivera**

Professor of Management, Marketing and Geospatial Science at Carthage College. He is a national leader in the undergraduate research movement and is a past president on the Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR).



**Dr. Stuart Hampton-Reeves**

Professor of Shakespeare Studies and Director of Research for the Faculty of Culture and the Creative Industries at the University of Central Lancashire, UK, and Chair of the British Conference of Undergraduate Research.

## Learning outcomes

### On completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Conduct a safe, ethical, well-managed research project
- Work effectively both individually and as part of a research team
- Review and communicate research literature
- Describe the stages of the funding application and award cycle
- Explain how to map out a project plan with key milestones and deliverables
- Understand the 'business of research' and professional skills
- Communicate research findings to different audiences
- Manage a career plan in academia or other industries
- Discuss the commercialization process
- Understand how to translate skills acquired in academia into enhancing their own employability

### On completion of the faculty courses, staff members will be able to:

- Identify ways undergraduate research benefits students and others
- Provide data and information on the contribution of undergraduate research to student success
- Explain how different disciplinary research methods can generate diverse undergraduate research opportunities



## Course features

Animations and comic strips

Real case study examples and scenarios

Video interviews with real students

Links to useful resources and project management tools

Interactive features such as action mazes and jigsaw activities

## Developed in collaboration with:

- Clark Atlanta University
- Indiana University - Purdue University Indianapolis
- Johnson C. Smith University
- Oakland University
- Tulane University
- University of Nebraska - Omaha
- University of Southern Maine
- University of Texas - El Paso
- University of Westminster
- University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire
- University of Wisconsin - Platteville
- University of Wisconsin - River Falls
- University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point

---

## Research as a Transferable Skill Program Overview

---

Research, scholarship, and creativity: What it is and why it matters

55 Minutes

This course introduces the concept of "research" as it is understood and defined by diverse disciplines, demonstrating (with reference to Boyer's model) how research is a multifaceted enterprise encompassing a wide range of approaches and outcomes. The transferable aspects of research, including consideration of career paths, are also introduced.

---

Integrity and ethical decision-making in research

65 Minutes

This course provides a critical background to the importance of ethical behavior in research and scholarship, introducing not only standard compliance regulations in (for example) human and animal subjects and data protection, but also supporting a spirit of "good citizenship" and responsibility that is necessary in any research discipline and in the wider world beyond academia.

---

Starting a research project

80 Minutes

This course will guide learners through the steps of the research process, both in terms of general best practices as well as specific examples from diverse disciplines. Students will learn how to formulate and carry through a research topic, question, and hypothesis, and set themselves up for success when preparing to begin a project.

---

Working with a research team and mentors

85 Minutes

This course guides learners on how to distinguish and identify different roles of research team members and mentors, prepare for research team meetings, and the best practices for communicating with their mentor. Students will also learn how to identify rules, expectations, and culture in a research environment.

---

Engaging stakeholders and funders

65 Minutes

This course looks at identifying stakeholders who may support research projects in many ways, including but not limited to funding. It supports learners in understanding best practices for engaging with stakeholders, including persuasive communication and strong proposal writing.

---

Research project management

55 Minutes

This course introduces key points to help learners manage a research project. It will support learners as they design and implement a research project, including overall management, keeping deadlines, developing budget and cost estimates, and staying organized.

---

Literature reviews: Discovering and evaluating information

70 Minutes

This course outlines what it means to conduct a literature review and why it is an important step in the research process. By the end of the course, students will be able to identify available resources, conduct and focus a search, and evaluate the quality of literature and reliability of sources that they are working with. One of the main "transferable skills" takeaways is critical evaluation and information literacy.

---

## Research methods and approaches

70 Minutes

This course provides an overview of the different types of research typically used in each discipline, and the various research strategies associated with quantitative and qualitative approaches. Students will learn to distinguish between different ways of knowing and how to increase the credibility of their findings and conclusions by choosing the right method or approach.

---

## Writing about research

80 Minutes

This course covers the key elements of writing research papers, collaborating on writing within different disciplines, and how to prepare and submit a paper for publication. It discusses the writing process and types of writing in the context of different disciplinary structures.

---

## Sharing your research findings: Communication and public engagement

65 Minutes

This course introduces different types of communication and the various skills associated with each type. Students will learn how to respond to questions and skepticism in different environments, as well as best practices for managing their reputation online.

---

## Commercialization and entrepreneurship

60 Minutes

This course provides students with an understanding entrepreneurship and the different career paths available to them based on their research experiences. Students will learn about the elements of a business plan, negotiation tactics, and intellectual property rights.

---

## Research skills for career planning

75 Minutes

This course guides students through the job search process, from understanding their value in the market place, determining which career paths are appropriate, and how to self-promote by networking online and in person. The course will support students in cultivating relationships with mentors and preparing for interviews.

---

## Introducing undergraduate research across the curriculum

80 Minutes

This course conveys the benefits of exposing undergraduates to research projects in an effort to jump-start their careers, and identifies ways to provide them with transferable skills that will enable them to be employed outside of academia. Faculty will learn different ways to scaffold undergraduate research into the courses in their departments, and transparently make students aware of the transferable skills they are learning through their research.

---

## Models of undergraduate research

65 Minutes

This course explains the benefits of engaging in undergraduate research, and identifies different models of mentorship and collaboration between students and faculty that reflect the norms of their discipline. It draws important connections between the "lab-centric" model of undergraduate research and how this approach can be applied and modified for a range of disciplines including the humanities.

---

## Measuring the impact of undergraduate **research**

65 Minutes

This course is intended to help faculty, administrators, and other stakeholders measure and demonstrate the impact that a comprehensive undergraduate research program has had, or could have, at their institutions; there is an emphasis on the power of good storytelling that serves to convince others of the value of supporting UR programs. It also helps faculty to develop strategies of reaching out and encouraging students who would not usually be involved in undergraduate research