

Deema AlGhanim  
Zachary Adda  
Daniel Sandrick  
Jaqueline Horsly

### The value of research to undergraduate students

After doing a research in the field of Cyberinfrastructure and Bioinformatics, we have learned a lot about the field itself. But we learned even more about research, group work, and working with mentors. We have realized the importance of research for undergraduate students whether they are freshmen or seniors, and whether they are looking for a job after graduation or planning on attending graduate school.

If an undergraduate is planning on attending graduate school, an undergraduate research, will not only look excellent on their resume, but will also prepare the student and give him/her an idea of what to expect in graduate school. Research could also develop interests in the field. A great deal of undergraduates are not certain about their interests and what they want to pursue after graduation. Being involved in a research is definitely one step a student could take to develop an interest.

If a student is a freshman, or planning on going straight into the work force after graduation, research is still an excellent help. In the work force, group work is very critical. We have learned that group work is an excellent way to produce a great outcome, but there are also a lot of disagreement and frustration that come with it. A research will teach the student about how to deal with difficult situations, develop problem-solving skills, and prepare them to the fact that in the work force, nothing will be completely perfect, disagreement and frustration are parts of the group work.

After taking I399, I certainly think that the School of Informatics and Computing should have a research class as a requirement. This will give a student a solid background about research and will help in many different ways including developing interests, developing problem-solving skills, and group working skills.

One suggestion I have is to limit the number of mentors to 1 or 2. Our group for example, had 4 great mentors, but it was very confusing especially receiving daily e-mails from 4 different mentors asking for different requirements. I also think that there should be a standard way of grading the assignments because some groups take over more complicated topics than others. I also think that there should be biweekly individual assignments in order to track the amount of contribution each member of a group puts in the research. This also could be a short quiz in class in order to avoid copying assignments. It is understandable that this is the first time this class is taught, but these are just small suggestions! :)