

Inspire your students.

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Move your  
research forward.

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Train a new generation  
of researchers.

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The Office of Undergraduate Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity (OUR) in the Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences at the University of Pittsburgh is looking for faculty conducting research in the social sciences, natural sciences, and humanities to serve as mentors in the First Experiences in Research (FE-R) program.

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“FE-R gave me a wonderful opportunity to work with some very high-achieving, incredibly dedicated undergraduates. Watching each build from the work he or she began with me to develop independent

intellectual trajectories and ambitious professional goals over the next three years was deeply satisfying. The research they did was helpful for my project, but far more important was the satisfaction of seeing where this experience took them.”

— **Lara Putnam**, PhD, professor and chair, Department of History



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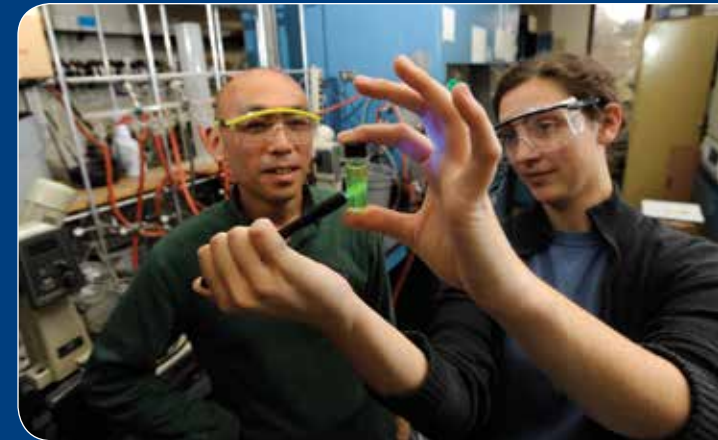
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UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

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Become a  
**First Experiences  
in Research (FE-R)  
Faculty Mentor**



The DIETRICH School of  
**Arts & Sciences**

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Office of Undergraduate Research,  
Scholarship, and Creative Activity

## What is FE-R?

**First Experiences in Research (FE-R)** facilitates spring term mentorships between faculty members and undergraduates in the Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences. While undergraduates gain close engagement with their academic studies, faculty members receive enthusiastic assistance from students eager to participate directly in their field of study.

## There are many benefits for faculty members who mentor FE-R students:

- Each FE-R student contributes five to 10 hours weekly to a research project over the course of the term; faculty members can accept up to five mentees per term.
- Developing mentorships is invaluable not only for undergraduates but also for investment in the future generation of researchers.
- FE-R students provide a fresh outsider's perspective.
- Mentorship increases a student's chance of success in college and beyond.
- Involvement in research projects may help students to refine their interest in a field of study and connect with a major or department.



"My experience with the FE-R program for the past several years has been absolutely rewarding. The students are bright, curious, enthusiastic, and motivated. I have mentored numerous students through the program, and many of them have received travel and presentation awards. Moreover,

several past students are currently in graduate and medical programs. Each year, I look forward to the new class of students entering my laboratory."

—**Anthony E. Kline**, PhD, associate professor, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, and associate director of rehabilitation research, Safar Center for Resuscitation Research



"The First Experiences in Research program is invaluable in giving freshmen the opportunity to do research in something outside their field. Many of the students I work with were primarily involved in studying the sciences and have no experience in the humanities. This brief interaction with topics and resources in this field allows them to ask questions about why we study the humanities and broadens their understanding of why it is important."

—**Mariana Whitmer**, PhD, projects coordinator, Center for American Music

## Roles and Responsibilities of FE-R Students

- Complete a learning agreement with the FE-R faculty mentor, clearly establishing expectations, goals, activities, and time commitment.
- Dedicate five to 10 weekly hours to the FE-R faculty mentor's research.
- Register for one or two academic credits, commensurate with the weekly time commitment.
- Enroll in ARTSC 0120: First Experiences in Research, a biweekly cohort of FE-R students.
- Present research at the FE-R Celebration of Research event at the end of the spring term.

## How to Become a Faculty Mentor

Becoming a faculty mentor is easy.

- Faculty members may submit information about research projects for which they would like undergraduate research support at [asundergrad.pitt.edu/our/fe-r-faculty-project-submissions](https://asundergrad.pitt.edu/our/fe-r-faculty-project-submissions). Submissions are accepted through the beginning of the fall term.
- In the fall term, OUR matches students with submitted faculty projects.
- By fall recess, faculty members interview students and submit their selections to OUR.
- Faculty mentors begin working with FE-R students at the beginning of the spring term. Students enroll simultaneously in the biweekly cohort ARTSC 0120: First Experiences in Research.
- In late April, FE-R students present their work in a Celebration of Research event.

## Roles and Responsibilities of FE-R Faculty Mentors

- Complete a learning agreement with FE-R student(s), clearly establishing expectations, goals, activities, and time commitment.
- Incorporate FE-R student(s) into your scholarly pursuits in a valuable manner.
- Meet one on one with FE-R student(s) regularly to provide feedback about progress and contributions.
- Provide appropriate orientation and training specific to the project.
- Provide an evaluation of each student's work at the end of the term to enable a grade of satisfactory (S) or not satisfactory (NS) to be assigned.



For more information, please visit [asundergrad.pitt.edu/our](https://asundergrad.pitt.edu/our).