The College of Behavioral & Community Sciences (CBCS) focuses on the development and implementation of innovative solutions to the complex conditions that affect the behavior and well-being of individuals, families, populations, and the communities in which we live.

CBCS offers a systematic array of opportunities for undergraduate students to actively participate in research. The Undergraduate Research Program provides students with a planned sequence of courses to support their development as undergraduate researchers and to prepare them for graduate school. The program’s goal is to immerse students in the culture of research and engage them in the process of becoming a scientist. Students may obtain an Undergraduate Research Certificate by completing a specialized program of study culminating in an independent research project. Students who are pursuing a major or minor in CBCS may also apply for Research Assistant positions to obtain faculty mentorship in the research process. Finally, students may join an undergraduate research interest group to participate in a variety of research opportunities and to develop interdisciplinary collaborations.

The certificate is open to transfer students as well as four-year students.

For additional information, contact Dr. Catherine Batsche at cbatsche@usf.edu.

**Research Intensive Student Experience (RISE)**

RISE is an undergraduate research certificate designed to provide a planned sequence of courses that will support the systematic development of students as undergraduate researchers. The certificate is intended: (1) to provide students who plan to apply to graduate school with a credential signifying their completion of a systematic undergraduate research preparation program, (2) to encourage students to pursue research mentorships that will lead to the completion of an independent research project by the time they graduate, and (3) to guide students toward the goal of disseminating the results of their research at a national conference or in a peer-reviewed publication. An overall GPA of at least 2.5 must be maintained. A grade of “B” must be obtained in all courses applying toward the certificate. The certificate is open to transfer students as well as first year students.

**Undergraduate Research Assistantships**

Students who are pursuing majors or minors in CBCS are eligible to apply for Undergraduate Research Assistantships. As participants gain more research experience, they may be promoted from Research Assistant I to Research Assistant II, and III, until they reach the highest level, CBCS Scholar, in their senior year. Some Undergraduate Research Assistantships are partially funded by the CURE (Continuous Undergraduate Research Experience) Fund.

**Undergraduate Research Interest Group (URIG)**

The Undergraduate Research Interest Group provides CBCS students with opportunities to meet to discuss their research ideas and to form cross-disciplinary collaborations. Open to all students in the College, URIG members are invited to the CBCS Distinguished Researcher Lecture Series and have the opportunity to meet with these speakers to discuss their research interests. In addition, URIG members participate in field experiences to learn about the importance of research from a community perspective. In the past, field experiences for undergraduate researchers included Pinellas Hope (a tent city project for individuals who are homeless), the medical examiner’s office, family and adult drug courts, and DUI checkpoint observations. These experiences allow students to interact with stakeholders, such as judges, and families affected by crime and violence. The field experiences provide helpful insights to inform student research topics.
Research Intensive Student Experience (RISE) Certificate

Course Requirements for Undergraduate Research Certificate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Term</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IDS 1505</td>
<td>Introduction to Research in Behavioral &amp; Community Sciences</td>
<td>1 hour</td>
<td>Fall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDS 2600</td>
<td>Applications of Research in Community Settings</td>
<td>1 hour</td>
<td>Fall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STA 2122</td>
<td>Social Science Statistics or equivalent, e.g. PSY 3204</td>
<td>3 hours</td>
<td>Fall or Spring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XXXX</td>
<td>Research Methods e.g. PSY 3213, CCJ 3701, GEY 4401, SOW 3401</td>
<td>3 hours</td>
<td>Fall or Spring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MHS 4741</td>
<td>Advanced Research Methods in Behavioral &amp; Community Sciences</td>
<td>3 hours</td>
<td>Spring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MHS 4731</td>
<td>Writing for Research &amp; Publication</td>
<td>3 hours</td>
<td>Fall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XXXX</td>
<td>Directed/Supervised Research or Thesis e.g.,</td>
<td>2 – 6 hours</td>
<td>Fall and/or Spring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MHS 4912, IDH 5975, SPA 4910 or 4970, SOW 4910</td>
<td>16 – 20 hours</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A grade of “B” (not B-) must be obtained in all courses applying toward the certificate.

Research Scholar Profiles

Blake Barrett (2007)
Mentors: Drs. Greg Teague, Kathleen Moore, and Scott Young
REU Research Topic: Social support factors and substance use outcomes among persons with co-occurring disorders.
Academic Status: Currently pursuing Ph.D. in Public Health at University of South Florida.
Seven research publications in peer-reviewed journals
Outstanding Science Paper published in Peer Reviewed journal

Elizabeth Corsentino (2007)
Mentors: Drs. Victor Molinari and Amber Gum
REU Research Topic: Experiences of family members caring for older relatives with schizophrenia.
Academic Status: Currently pursuing the Ph.D. in Psychology at Florida State University.

Roseanna Sommers (2009)
Mentors: Dr. Elizabeth Vaquera and Airia Papadopoulos
REU Research Topic: Effects of Gender, Race/Ethnicity, and Age on Dosing and Monitoring of Antidepressant Medications
Academic Status: Currently pursuing Ph.D. in Psychology and Law at Yale University.
Awards/Distinctions: Awarded two-year biomedical ethics fellowship with the National Institutes of Health (2010-2012)

Rebecca Hubbard (2007)
Mentor: Dr. Katurah Jenkins-Hall
REU Research Topic: Parental influences on drinking behaviors and expectancies of young adults.
Academic Goal: Pursuing Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology at Virginia Commonwealth University.
Carlos Rodriguez (2007)

Mentors: Drs. Larry Schonfeld and Amber Gum; Bellinda King-Kallimanis

REU Research Topic: Depressive symptoms and alcohol abuse/misuse in older adults.

Academic Goal: Pursuing Ph.D. in Psychology with a specialization in geropsychology, University of Southern California.


National Research Service Award (2008), National Institute on Aging.