



Undergraduate Research Community for the Human Sciences

Sponsored by the Kappa Omicron Nu Leadership Academy in partnership with Board on Human Sciences, NASULGC; Council of Administrators of Family & Consumer Sciences; Higher Education Unit - American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences; 1890 Council of Administrators.

This initiative will create a framework and community to augment the scholarship of learning and teaching in preparing students for graduate education, the workplace, and responsible citizenship. It will serve as a catalyst for increasing the experiential content of undergraduate education in the human sciences. In other words, this project develops a model to advance both undergraduate student development and a national undergraduate research agenda for the human sciences.

Mission

The mission of the Undergraduate Research Community (URC) is a dynamic and pervasive culture of the human sciences for developing the next generation of scholars.

In pursuit of this mission, URC will:

1. Assess undergraduate research models.
2. Identify priority issues for undergraduate research.
3. Create a national undergraduate research conference for the human sciences.
4. Sponsor a peer-reviewed electronic publication for undergraduate research.
5. Establish an electronically connected multi-campus community of undergraduate researchers.
6. Foster integrative, cross-specialization undergraduate research and service learning research projects in addition to traditional research in the specializations.

Vision

In five years

1. The opportunity to engage in undergraduate research is the norm in human sciences units.
2. Candidates for graduate school are positioned to engage in research.
3. The Participating Institutions have each built their undergraduate research programs to a higher level.
4. The electronic journal selects the best of undergraduate research once a year
5. The URC Conference rivals other professional meetings for quality.
6. This initiative has stimulated the total research output and makes a measurable contribution to research.

Overview – Year 1, 2, 3, and 4

The URC Planning Conference was held in Chicago, Illinois, January 15-16, 2001. Outcomes of planning are available from the official URC contact (see other side).

The first URC Research Conference was held in conjunction with the Kappa Omicron Nu Leadership Conclave at the Grosvenor Resort, Walt Disney World, Orlando, Florida; the second at the Arlington Hyatt, Virginia, August 7-10, 2003; the third at the Radisson Hotel & Suites, Chicago, Illinois, August 4-7, 2005, the fourth at the Hyatt Regency Dallas Airport, August, 2-5, 2007.

URC and the Academic Committee of the Board of Human Sciences sponsored the NASULGC Pre-Conference: “Institutional Planning for Undergraduate Research in the Human Sciences,” November 9 and 10, 2001 at the Grand Hyatt in DC. Toufic Hakim facilitated the conference.

The Undergraduate Research Journal for the Human Sciences was organized, and in 2014 thirteen volumes are located at http://www.kon.org/urc/undergrad_research.html Submissions can be made at any time to the Undergraduate Research Community in East Lansing, Michigan.

Criteria for Institutions to Qualify as Participating Institutions

1. The unit has an ongoing undergraduate research program or is interested in developing one.
2. The unit will develop a comprehensive plan for faculty development in mentoring undergraduate research.
3. The unit will commit a faculty mentor(s) to a planning conference and share planning tasks, with authorization to make decisions on behalf of the unit.
4. The unit will commit (or reallocate) resources to support students and faculty for the planning conference, the research conference, and the ongoing Undergraduate Research Community and assessment program.

Institutions may apply for participation in the URC by submitting a one—to two-page letter of commitment to the Kappa Omicron Nu National Office. A sample letter is available at www.kon.org/pdf/sample_letter.pdf.

Invitation to Affiliate as a Participating Institution

Human sciences units are hereby invited to apply for status as a Participating Institution of the Undergraduate Research Community for the Human Sciences. Affiliation offers institutions the opportunity to participate in the development of the national structure for building a cadre of undergraduate researchers that will bring credibility to the human sciences and among the disciplines.

Letter of Commitment

To affiliate with the URC, each unit shall submit a one- or two-page letter of commitment that responds to the criteria (see other side) for institutions to qualify as a Participating Institution and includes the following:

- Name of Coordinator, including address, telephone and fax numbers, and e-mail address.
- Sign-off by the Dean and the Provost
- Brief description of present vision and unit plan for implementation of undergraduate research program.

Institutional Founders

Human Ecology, Michigan State University; Human Ecology, Kansas State University; Human Ecology, University of Maryland-Eastern Shore

Participating Institutions

Arizona, University of, Family & Consumer Sciences; Ashland University, Family & Consumer Sciences; Ball State University, Family & Consumer Sciences; Bradley University, Family & Consumer Science; Brigham Young University, Family Life; Connecticut, University of, Dietetics Program, Allied Health; East Carolina University, Human Ecology; Florida State University, Human Sciences; Georgia, University of, Family & Consumer Sciences; Iowa State, Family & Consumer Sciences; Kentucky, Univ. of, Human Environ. Sciences; Memphis, Univ. of, Consumer Science & Education; North Carolina, Greensboro, Human Environmental Sciences; North Dakota State, Human Development/Education; Northern Illinois University, Family/Consumer/Nutrition; Northwest Missouri, Family & Consumer Sciences; Ohio State University, College of Human Ecology; Oklahoma State, Human Environmental Sciences; Penn State, Health and Human Development; Texas A&M-Kingsville, Human Sciences; Texas Tech, Human Sciences; Utah State University, College of Family Life; Virginia Tech, Human Resources & Education; Washington State, Human Sciences; West Virginia University, Family & Consumer Sciences

Official URC Contact:

Undergraduate Research Community for the Human Sciences

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