What is research?

Research: the systematic investigation into and study of materials and sources in order to establish facts and reach new conclusions.

can look like a lot of things:
- working in a lab
- interviewing folks
- data entry

What are the different ways to get involved?

There are typically two ways to get involved in research:
- Research Assisting (RA): Helping a professor or grad student conduct their research.
- Independent Project: You are the primary researchers, and are responsible for designing and executing the project. As an undergraduate student, it is common to be supervised by a faculty member.

Research Assisting

How to find opportunities:

Check your email: Be sure to join your major list serv as many campus departments share when a professor is looking for research assistants and other research opportunities to students via email blasts.

Approach faculty members: The majority of faculty members are conducting research. Check out professor profiles to learn more about their work and then send them an email or visit them in their office hours.

FRAP Directory: For a list of faculty members seeking RAs during your current quarter, check the FRAP Directory at: urca.ucsb.edu/frap

Independent Projects

Where to start:

Senior Thesis:
Many major departments have an honors thesis program for senior students. If you are interested in completing an honors project check with your major department ahead of time, as sometimes there are GPA or course requirements.

URCA Resources: For information on funding, presenting, or publishing your research, visit: urca.ucsb.edu/

Research Program: UCSB has plenty of research programs that help students conduct independent research. Find more info on the next panel.

Research Programs

McNair Scholars Program
deadline: Fall (Jr) / Winter (So)
website: mcnair.ucsb.edu/
info: assists underrepresented students conduct research and apply to doctoral programs.

Edison Summer Program
deadline: Winter Quarter
website: mcnair.ucsb.edu/edison
info: summer research experience for upper division, STEM students.

Marc Scholars Program
deadline: Mid February
website: marc.csep.cnsl.ucsb.edu/
info: summer research experience for upper division, STEM students.

Gorman Scholars
deadline: Mid February
website: gorman.csep.cnsl.ucsb.edu/
info: provides STEM majors with an opportunity to receive mentoring and experience working on research projects.

Eureka Program
deadline: Mid February
website: eureka.csep.cnsl.ucsb.edu
info: focuses on introducing first year students to the broader science community on campus and providing exposure to research through academic year internships.

UC Leads
deadline: Early February
website: tinyurl.com/ucsbleads
info: for upper division students with the potential to succeed but who have experienced situations or conditions that have adversely impacted their advancement in their field of study.

Raab Writing Fellowship Program
deadline: January
website: writing.ucsb.edu/academics/raab
info: provides opportunities for mentoring and research in writing to selected students.