

# College of Arts and Sciences

*Engaging the Heart, Mind and Spirit*

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Change™  
THE CAMPAIGN FOR USD

## Undergraduate Research: \$6 million

### Background

The College of Arts and Sciences is seeking \$6 million to support **undergraduate research**. The goal of all research is to create new knowledge and share it with others. Research opportunities for undergraduate students are as diverse as they are. Students work in labs to uncover the biophysics of DNA particles, as well as measure the impact of Super Bowl commercials on youth. Students research business policies and practices of socially responsible companies and calculate how zebra fish respond to stimuli and mimic human addictive behaviors. In short, they are applying their coursework and research to solve more complex, real-world issues.

Undergraduate research is a tangible part of the student experience at USD. The annual Creative Collaborations Undergraduate Research Conference, which has been held for nearly 30 years, is a campuswide event that highlights student research. Over the past four years, student participation has increased by 25 percent. Most of the growth comes from students majoring in non-STEM subjects, such as philosophy, sociology and theology, which shows that undergraduate research can and should be experienced by all students.

### Objective

While working on their research projects, students need financial assistance to cover the cost of: supplies and equipment; stipends to cover living expenses when other employment is not possible; and funding to present their research at national conferences.

Here are a few opportunities to bridge the funding gap:

*Research Across a Department:* Funding will be used to support undergraduate research in a particular department, by providing stipends for student research assistants, enabling students to attend workshops and

national conferences, or purchasing supplies and equipment.

*Pre-Undergraduate Research Experience (PURE):* The PURE program recruits and retains socioeconomically disadvantaged (usually first-generation) students by engaging them in academic research at USD the summer before they begin as freshmen. Funding will be used to provide student stipends, assist with travel as well as purchase supplies and equipment.

*Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE):* The SURE program supports undergraduate research activities for students who have completed at least one academic year. Funding will be used to assist with travel and housing allowances, summer stipends as well as supplies and equipment.

*Student Travel Fund:* Funding will be used to assist all students in the college — regardless of major — with conference registration and travel costs to present their work.

*Endowment to name the Creative Collaborations Undergraduate Research Conference:* The Creative Collaborations Undergraduate Research Conference is an annual event that showcases student-faculty collaborative research, internships, and creative works from all disciplines. Approximately 50 percent of all undergraduate students participate in this event. Funding will be used to name the annual event in perpetuity as well as increase funding opportunities for students who cannot afford to participate.

### Impact

Some of our students may find their ideal job upon graduation. Others will choose graduate school, and still others may end up in a field unrelated to their degrees.

All students graduate USD with a comprehensive, holistic education derived from a strong foundation in the liberal arts. The liberal arts curriculum in the College of Arts and Sciences, combined with practical experience and undergraduate research, ensures the value of a USD degree to graduate admissions counselors and hiring personnel alike. Our students prove, time and time again, that they are problem solvers, project managers, innovators, communicators, collaborators, and team builders who can be successful in any career, regardless of major.

## For More Information

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