

Undergraduate Research, Scholarship, & Creative Activity (RSCA) at Cal State LA

- At Cal State LA we define undergraduate research, scholarship and creative activity (RSCA) as faculty-mentored experiences that engage students in hands-on research or creative projects, to learn about both a particular topic in a discipline and the research or creative process in general.
- The goal of RSCA at Cal State LA is to involve students with actively contested questions, empirical observation, cutting-edge technologies, and the sense of excitement that comes from working to answer important questions or engaging in service learning, discipline-specific creative projects and innovations (adapted from source: Kuh G. D., 2008).
- The scope of RSCA at Cal State LA is consistent with the system-wide California State University description of CSU undergraduate research:

“Undergraduate research is a key “high-impact” educational practice, and is a growing part of CSU undergraduate education programs. CSU faculty members are outstanding scholars in their disciplines, and provide significant mentorship to support the research, scholarship, and creative activities they undertake with their students. Much of the undergraduate research conducted at the CSU is focused on regional and community needs, supports students’ professional advancement, and constitutes an important driver for curriculum renewal and innovation. The wide scope and high quality of CSU faculty-led and mentored research, scholarly, and creative activities stand as evidence of the excellence and vitality of the faculty and students, and as additional evidence of the breadth of the CSU’s contributions to the education, workforce development, and economy of California.” (California State University (Web Link: <http://www.calstate.edu/research/undergrad/>)

- RSCA at Cal State LA is also consistent with CUR’s definition of undergraduate research, stated as “any inquiry or investigation conducted by an undergraduate student that makes an original intellectual or creative contribution to the discipline.” ([Council for Undergraduate Research](#))
- At Cal State LA, students engage in research, scholarship, and creative activities through research apprenticeships outside of regular coursework, service learning experiences and professional practicums; as well as inquiry-based classroom, laboratory, and field activities that are embedded within the course curriculum. (Boyer, 1991; California State Polytechnic Pomona website, 2008; Seymour et al., 2004,).