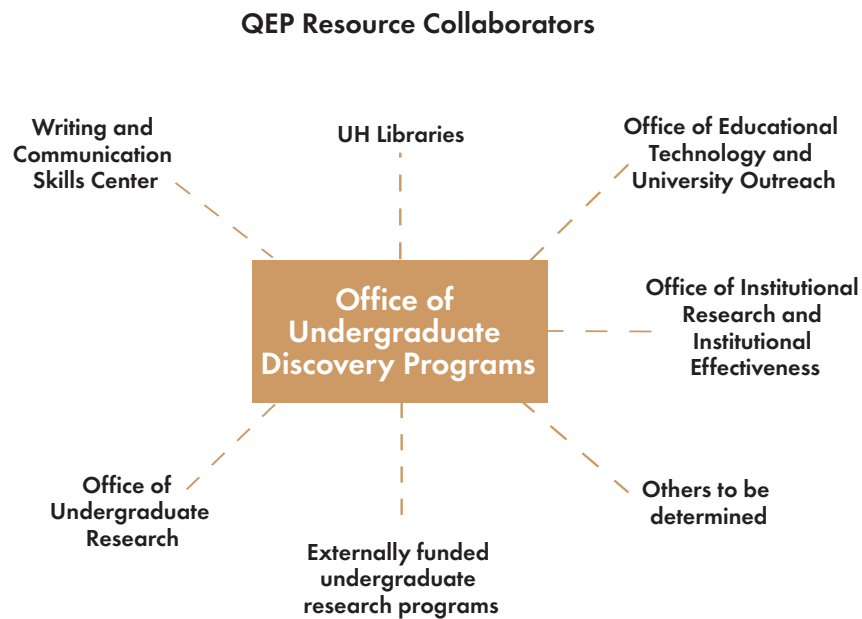




### 3.2 Creation of the UH Office of Undergraduate Discovery Programs

To ensure effective implementation of the QEP and to provide maximum benefit to our students, the University will establish the Office of Undergraduate Discovery Programs, which will function under the aegis of the UH Office of the Provost. This alignment will facilitate central coordination among QEP Resource Collaborators and will centralize support for students, faculty, and staff. Resource Collaborators who will play key roles in supporting both students and faculty include the Writing and Communication Skills Center, the UH Libraries, the Office of Educational Technology and University Outreach (ETUO), the Office of Undergraduate Research, and the Office of Institutional Research and Institutional Effectiveness (Figure 3). Two new grant programs, Resources for Student Development and Resources for Faculty Development, will be established to fund innovative and relevant workshops and online tutorials.

Figure 3



The Office of Undergraduate Discovery Programs will serve as a central information clearinghouse for students, faculty, and staff so that they can easily avail themselves of the various research-based learning opportunities and resources. The Office will partner with operate as a point of contact for campus offices, alumni, local industry, and community organizations who wish to engage our students in real-world research projects or serve as guest speakers.

Through the management of new competitive grant programs and central programs and services, the Office of Undergraduate Discovery Programs will facilitate the development of research-related skills training and research opportunities, and thereby provide access to discovery-based learning for students of all academic backgrounds (see Table 5 and 6).

### **Other Supportive Functions of the Office of Undergraduate Discovery Programs**

In addition to its administrative and managerial functions, the Office of Undergraduate Discovery Programs will actively participate in the collection of data, assess the extent to which annual performance criteria are met for each of the programs, and recommend adjustments as needed. The Office of Undergraduate Discovery Programs will also collaborate with the Office of Institutional Research and Institutional Effectiveness in the assessment of program goals and student learning outcomes.

The Office of Undergraduate Discovery Programs will coordinate with the Office of University Relations to market discovery-based learning programs to both on- and off-campus constituents. Collaboration with the Office of Development will lead to opportunities for increased funding of QEP-related programs. These include submission of proposals with broad campus impact to federal agencies, philanthropic and corporate foundations, and other funding agencies or individuals. In addition to these University-wide proposals, the Office of Undergraduate Discovery Programs will also provide information to faculty about available student and institutional resources to strengthen their grant proposals to federal funding agencies.

The Office of Undergraduate Discovery Programs will also partner with the Office of Admissions and college recruiting directors in leveraging the discovery-based learning programs to attract and retain high-achieving prospective students.

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*In their own words...*

**“I am very pleased with the direction that the QEP is taking; the needs of UH students seem to be the true basis for the plan’s design.”**

*K. Bracy, Alumni  
QEP Online Feedback*

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Table 5

**Summary of QEP Competitive Grant Programs  
Administered by the Office of Undergraduate Discovery Programs**

Grant Program	Mentored	Course-Based	Department	College	Description
<b>1. Research-Supportive Curriculum Development Program</b>	•	•	•	•	<b>Grant program for curriculum development provides funding for faculty release time or partial summer salary support, TA and RA stipends, Writing Center and Library consultations, data collection equipment for field studies, software, research project supplies. Grant program will have three levels of support: individual faculty, faculty team, and colleges/departments.</b>
a. Core Courses		•	•	•	Funding for core course development or enhancements in service courses at the freshman/sophomore levels to incorporate active learning, research awareness/appreciation, and research-related skills training
b. Intermediate Courses		•	•	•	Funding for integration of research-related skills training or reinforcement in major courses. Colleges and departments may also develop courses in series (vertical integration) or multi-disciplinary courses which span several majors or involve interdisciplinary linked courses (horizontal integration)
c. Advanced Research-Intensive Courses	•	•	•	•	Funding for development or enhancements of research-intensive courses that involve collaborative research projects or culminating experiences for course credit such as service-learning, industry, and campus projects
<b>2. Resources for Student Development</b>	•	•	•	•	<b>Grant Program to support training and development of student research-related skills.</b>
a. Student Workshops and Tutorials	•	•	•	•	Funding for resource centers to develop co-curricular workshops and online tutorials to support mentored or course-based research. Colleges and departments can also propose research-related skills training for a particular discipline or field
b. Reality Chats: Conversations with Practitioners and Scholars			•	•	Funding for departments and colleges to develop a Reality Chat series or host individual guest speakers/artists from out-of-town. Individual faculty members will be encouraged to use the free Houston Reality Chats Speakers Bureau for their courses
c. College and Department Undergraduate Research Showcases			•	•	Funding for departments and colleges to develop and host showcases for their undergraduates to disseminate work from mentored research experiences or research-based course projects
d. Student Travel Fellowships for Undergraduate Research	•	•			Funding for undergraduates whose research or creative activity has been selected for presentation at a regional or national venue. Research can result from mentored research or research-based course projects.
e. Graduate Student Near-Peer Mentors	•	•			Funding for professional development workshops for graduate students such as how to mentor undergraduates, inquiry-based pedagogy, teaching tools and resources
<b>3. Resources for Faculty Development</b>		•			<b>Grant program for development of resources to support faculty curricular enhancement efforts such as pedagogy, curriculum, and assessment workshops.</b>

Table 6

**Summary of QEP Central Programs and Services  
Administered by the Office of Undergraduate Discovery Programs**

Program or Service	Mentored	Course-Based	Department	College	Description
<b>1. Databases</b>					Multiple searchable databases accessible to students, faculty, staff, alumni, and area practitioners and scholars
a. On-campus Research Opportunities Database	•				Provides students with a listing of faculty research interests and faculty-mentored research projects. Also includes work-study internship positions and mentored research projects in institutes, centers, and campus offices
b. Houston Research Internship Database	•				Provides students with a listing of available paid and unpaid internship programs or positions in the Houston area. Positions may be posted by research centers and institutes, campus offices, local businesses, the Texas Medical Center institutions, NASA, and others
c. Real-World Team Projects Database	•	•			Resource for faculty and student teams who are seeking real-world team projects for their courses. Campus offices, community organizations, small businesses, industry sponsors, etc. can post projects for students teams to address
d. Reality Chats Speakers Bureau		•	•	•	Provides faculty and student organizations with a listing of available practitioners and scholars from the Houston area who are available to share their experiences with students. Local alumni, professionals, campus faculty and staff can join the speakers bureau
<b>2. Work-Study Research Internship Program</b>	•				Provides new opportunities for students who qualify for federal work-study aid to work as research interns in faculty laboratories, institutes, centers, or campus offices. The The Office of Undergraduate Discovery Programs would provide funding for the employer's portion of the student's salary
<b>3. Undergraduate Research Summit</b>	•	•			Annual university-wide event will provide a venue for individual students and teams of students to present their research or creative work resulting from faculty mentored experiences or course-based projects
<b>4. Undergraduate Research Journal</b>	•	•			Annual Journal for Undergraduate Research and its associated electronic portal will provide another venue for students and teams of students to present their research or creative works in print or digital formats (podcast, website, etc.)
<b>5. Grant Recipients Best Practices Conference</b>		•	•	•	Annual best practices conference will provide faculty an opportunity to learn from colleagues who have successfully implemented curricular enhancements. Colleges, departments and resource collaborators will also share student and faculty resources that have been effective
<b>6. Recognition Awards for Faculty and Students</b>	•	•	•	•	Annual awards program will recognize faculty for research-based curricular innovations and mentoring. Students will be honored for research innovation and excellence