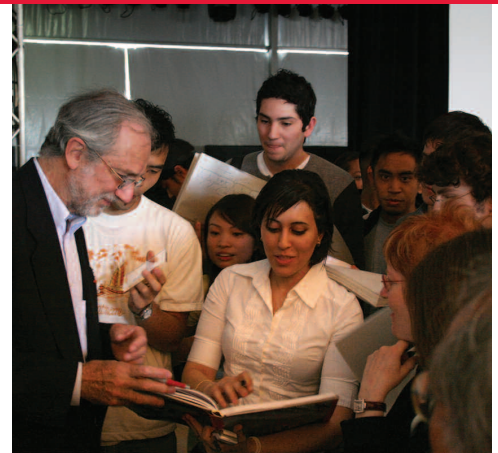


3.5 Co-Curricular Opportunities for Research-Related Skills Training

In addition to the curricular enhancements described in Section 3.4, our *Discovery-Based Learning Initiative* will provide co-curricular opportunities for students to practice and refine their research-related skills and learn about research in other disciplines. These include:

- The Work-Study Research Internship Program
- The Reality Chats Program
- Programs for Research Dissemination
- Student Workshops and Tutorials
- Graduate Student Near-Peer Mentor Development Program



3.5.1 Work-Study Research Internship Program

A new Work-Study Research Internship Program will offer on-campus research opportunities to students who qualify for the Federal Work-Study Program. The Office of Undergraduate Discovery Programs will fund the employer's portion of the student's salary. The Work-Study Research Internship Program will provide research internships to students who might not otherwise engage in research or pursue on-campus employment. Rather than performing clerical and administrative duties, interns will learn research-related skills in a pre-independent research experience. Students who have completed their Work-Study Research internships will be better qualified and more inclined to pursue independent research projects.

Work-Study Research interns may be employed on campus in faculty laboratories, core facilities, or research centers and institutes. In addition to research laboratories, other offices such as the Office of Institutional Research and Institutional Effectiveness, Intellectual Property Management, college and university communications offices, and the Texas Institute for Measurement, Evaluation, and Statistics (TIMES) may also mentor Work-Study Research interns. Psychology or education students, for example, will have hands-on experience in survey design and assessment. Business or engineering students will conduct patent searches and perform market research.

To match prospective interns with research opportunities, the Office of Undergraduate Discovery Programs will develop and maintain a database of available on-campus work-study research internship positions. The Office of Undergraduate Discovery Programs will collaborate with the resource centers to present a series of workshops providing additional training in professional and research-related skills for Work-Study Research interns. Work-Study Research interns will also have access to the full spectrum of online training modules that will be developed during implementation of the QEP.

3.5.2 Reality Chats Program

The Office of Undergraduate Discovery Programs will provide funding for guest speakers through a new program named *Reality Chats: Conversations with Practitioners and Scholars*. Organized at the university, college, or departmental level, the chats will provide students with an understanding that cannot typically be conveyed in the classroom. Practitioners, prominent speakers and artists will share their professional and career experiences in an informal setting, and discuss contemporary trends and opportunities for research internships and projects. Students will learn how research-related skills are used in practice from professionals in their chosen fields.



In the case of Reality Chats with scholars, students will learn about contemporary trends in research and scholarship.

The Reality Chats may be coupled with viewing a performance or participating in an observational tour. Honoraria will also be available for invited speakers to participate in a Reality Chat with students in addition to delivering their scheduled lectures or seminars hosted by campus offices, colleges, and departments.

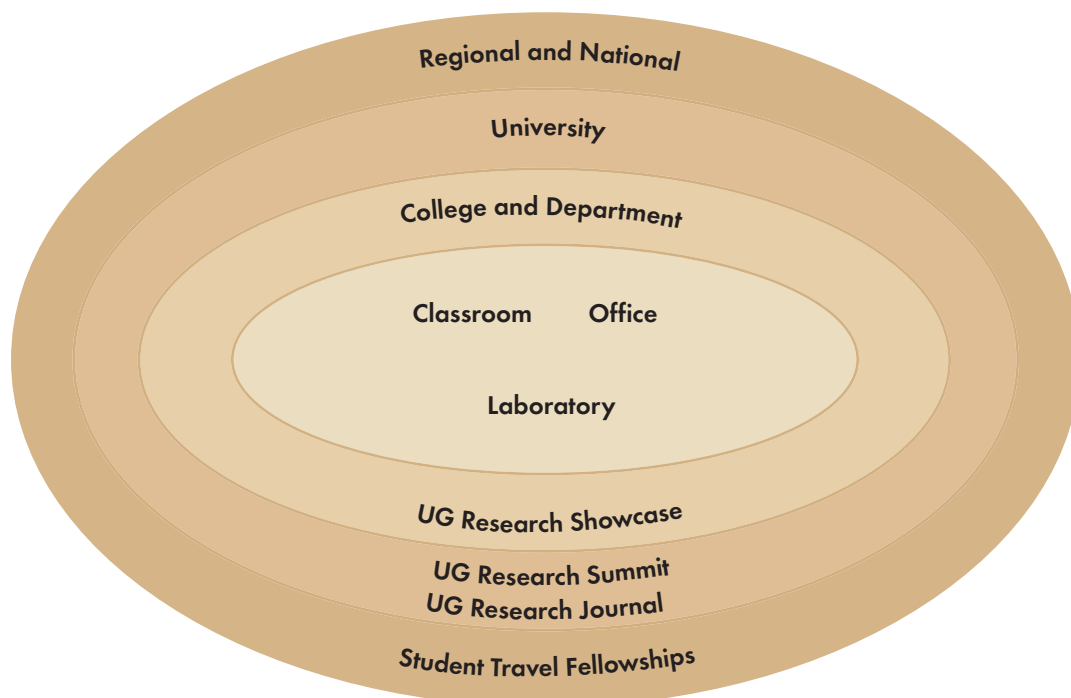
Funding for the *Reality Chats Program* will require the opportunity for students to participate in additional enrichment projects before or after the Chat. Such activities may consist of the submission of a short written or orally presented synopsis of the forum, critique of the performance/exhibit, or class assignment relating to the speaker's research or publications. The *Reality Chats Speakers Bureau* will enable faculty and student organizations to access local speakers (see Table 10).

3.5.3 Programs for Student Dissemination of Research

New programs will provide students with venues to disseminate their course-based or mentored research projects or creative works (Figure 4). These range from individual or group presentations in classrooms or laboratories to broader and more prestigious venues such as national conferences.

Figure 4

Expanding Venues for Student Dissemination of Research



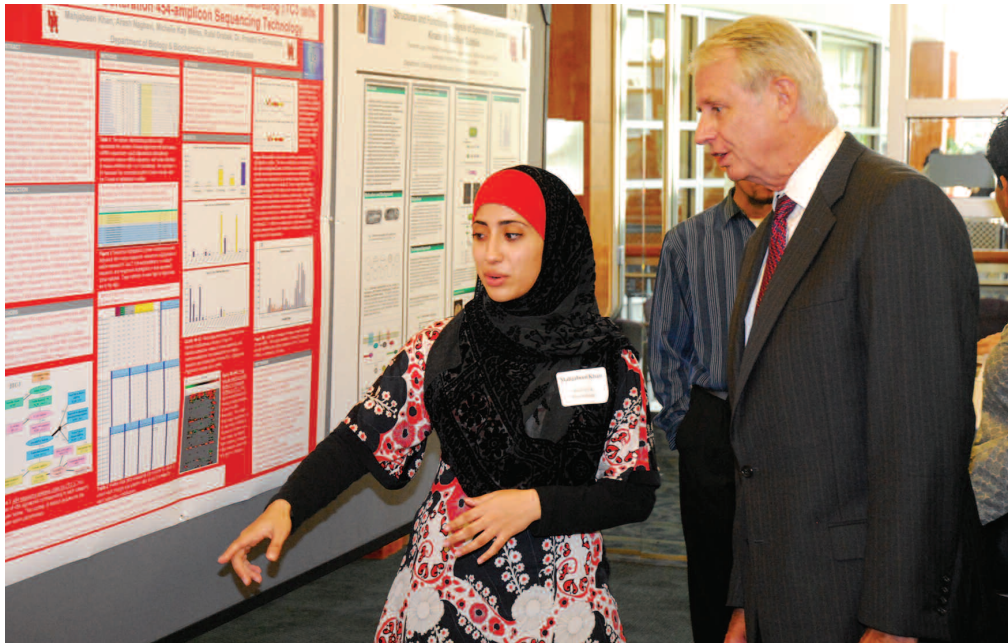
College and Department Undergraduate Research Showcase

Showcases are meant to be inclusive of all students who wish to present their individual or team's work in their department or college. Presentations can be the result of course assignments/projects, mentored research projects, or work-study research internships. *College and Department Undergraduate Research Showcase* grants will provide awards for students and honoraria and travel expenses for keynote speakers. Academic units will submit proposals to the Office of Undergraduate Discovery Programs to fund their student showcases.

Undergraduate Research Summit

The campus-wide annual **Undergraduate Research Summit** will enable individual and groups of students from a variety of academic disciplines to present, perform, or exhibit their research endeavors. Team-based showcases may include capstone design projects or group and ensemble performances. Prizes, including travel to professional conferences, will be awarded for activities such as writing contests, poster competitions, and other challenges. Judges will be local alumni, professionals, and researchers from other area institutions.

The **Undergraduate Research Summit** will give students the opportunity to learn more about research within and outside their disciplines, as well as connect with faculty to discuss available research positions. The Office of Undergraduate Research will be a key partner with the Office of Undergraduate Discovery Programs in the planning and implementation of the annual **Undergraduate Research Summit**. On-campus resources and institutions, such as the UH Libraries and Writing and Communication Skills Center will also collaborate with the Office of Undergraduate Discovery Programs to support the event.





In their own words...

“My first instructor at UH...made me feel welcome and inspired me to do things I hadn’t even considered doing, like publishing, presenting at conferences, and earning an advanced degree.”

UH Alumnus
2005 Alumni Attitude Survey

Undergraduate Research Journal and Online Portal

In 2007, a group of UH students launched an undergraduate literary journal, *Glass Mountain*, focusing on student creative writing and art.

Similarly, the UH *Undergraduate Research Journal* will be established to provide a university-wide venue for students to publish their original research or creative work through a jury review process. Students will also have an opportunity to write, edit, design, and publish articles on research taking place at UH. Through the Undergraduate Research Journal, students will have hands-on experience with all aspects of the publication process.

The journal will be available online with expanded interactive menus, photo galleries, and video clips. The online portal will also serve as an ongoing archive for student research and creative achievements. Students will also be able to submit podcasts or video for posting on the online portal.

Student Travel Fellowships for Undergraduate Research

The *Student Travel Fellowships for Undergraduate Research Program* will provide students with the opportunity to present their research or creative work to a community of scholars and peers, and to network with individuals from their chosen fields. To qualify for funded travel, students must present, compete, exhibit, or perform at a regional or national conference. In addition to presenting at annual meetings of professional organizations, students will also be supported for presentation at general conferences such as the National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR). Such conferences provide students information about research programs at other institutions and thus broaden their knowledge of opportunities available to them during their undergraduate career and beyond.

3.5.4 Student Workshops and Tutorials

As further elaborated in Section 3.7, the Resource Collaborators will develop student workshops and tutorials in partnership with the Office of Undergraduate Discovery Programs, and with colleges, departments, and course instructors. These range from general information literacy training to hands-on writing workshops. For broader student access, online tutorials will be delivered via the Discovery-Based Learning website and embedded modules in WebCT course sites.

3.5.5 Graduate Student Near-Peer Mentor Development Program

The *Graduate Student Near-Peer Mentor Development Program* will support the professional development of graduate students who serve as near-peer mentors to undergraduate students pursuing research projects in faculty-run laboratories. Graduate near-peer mentors will help coach, advise, encourage, inspire, serve as positive role models, and, most importantly, instill a sense of confidence in their undergraduate apprentices. Workshops will be developed by the Office of Undergraduate Discovery Programs and the Resource Collaborators covering topics such as the process of mentoring undergraduates, the responsible conduct of research, and methods for inquiry-based teaching. Graduate students who plan to pursue careers in academia will benefit from the professional development afforded by the near-peer mentoring experience and associated workshops.