

Undergraduate Research Guidelines

Application process:

Students interested in a research position with the Price Lab should first take some time to learn about the work we do. Besides reading about the different research areas on our website, students can also attend group meetings, email lab members, and review some of our recent publications. After this, each student must complete an Undergraduate Research Application Form, and submit this form along with a current resume or CV to Dr. Price.

Note: Academic record, technical experience and research background are important, but they are not the only deciding factors on whether a student can join the lab. Above all, we are looking for highly interested and highly motivated students who are willing to learn, and can produce quality work on a consistent basis.

Project assignment process:

Based on interests and skill set, each accepted student will be matched to one or more specific projects. Students will then have the opportunity to meet one-on-one with the graduate student supervising each project (in some cases, there may only be one match). Undergrad students will have the final say on which grad student they work with, and on which specific project.

If a student does not find a suitable project/grad student arrangement, he or she may propose a new research project that they feel is relevant to the lab. New projects must be approved by Dr. Price.

Research requirements:

Time expectations

- Students receiving credit for research in the lab are expected to work 3 hours each week for every 1 hour of credit (i.e., 1 credit = 3 hours, 3 credits = 9 hours).
- Students receiving hourly pay are expected to work 10-20 hours each week.
- Volunteer students, while not required to work a specified amount of time, are encouraged to work 1-5 hours per week on average to make their research experience worthwhile.

Project Proposal (only applicable to students receiving course credit):

After finalizing project assignments, students will be expected to compile a short two-part proposal, consisting of a literature review and an outline of semester goals:

1. Literature review: Students must review the most relevant literature to the project (some direction may be given by the grad student) and write a one page summary of their findings.
2. Proposal: Students must write a paragraph outlining what they expect to accomplish during the semester.

This will be due two weeks after the semester begins.

Mid-semester Progress Report

Students will need to write a one page report describing (i) what they have accomplished thus far; and (ii) their expected plans for the rest of the semester. At this time, graduate students will also complete a feedback form for each undergrad to be shared with the student and Dr. Price.

End-of-semester Report

- Students completing their time in the lab will be required to write a journal-style report detailing their accomplishments for the semester(s), including the following sections:
 1. Background (can include material from the proposal literature review)
 2. Materials & Methods
 3. Results & Discussion
 4. Conclusions (these don't have to be perfect, but students should take some time to think about what came out of the project, and where they see it going)

Note that if the student worked on more than one project, they may write about the project they feel they made the most progress on. The final report will be due on the last day of exams and should be at least four pages not including references.

- Students continuing their project the following semester will be required to give a 20 minute presentation in lab meeting detailing their project and future plans. This should include information on background, motivation, methods, and any results thus far.