Kennesaw State University is committed to advancing undergraduate research. In July 2016, an Office of Undergraduate Research was created (http://research.kennesaw.edu/our/) in the Office of Research. This office oversees a number of initiatives, described below.

1) The Symposium of Student Scholars is an annual event that celebrates student research. It began in 1996 as a small event (17 posters) in the College of Science and Mathematics; it now includes students from all colleges at KSU. The event has grown dramatically in the last several years:

![Symposium of Student Scholars](image)

2) The Office of Undergraduate Research provides funding to promote undergraduate research at KSU. Students who have been accepted to present at a conference can apply for travel awards (up to $1,000) to help offset the costs associated with the trip. Faculty members can apply for grants of up to $8,000 to mentor teams of undergraduate researchers. The funding can go toward supplies for research, course releases, summer stipends, travel expenses, etc. Applications for both of these funding mechanisms have generally increased over the last several years:
3) For the last four years, the Office of Undergraduate Research fully funded at least one student from each project that was accepted for presentation at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR).
   a. In 2016, KSU students presented 51 projects.
   b. In 2017, KSU students presented 39 projects.
   c. In 2018, KSU students presented 99 projects.
   d. In 2019, KSU students presented 383 projects.

4) The Office of Undergraduate Research is committed to incentivizing faculty to work with first-year students on mentored research projects; research suggests that the benefits of undergraduate research are augmented the earlier students begin (Hathaway et al., 2002; Nagda et al., 1998; Schneider et al., 2015). Both the first-year students and the faculty mentors who are selected for this project are funded $2,000 each for the academic year.

5) The Undergraduate Research Club (URC) is a registered student organization on campus dedicated to promoting student-faculty collaborative research. Beginning in Fall 2017, the club was classified at the second-highest level of classification for student organizations, a distinction reserved for only about 5% of KSU’s nearly 300 student organizations (1% were classified at the highest level). The club is thriving, with several ongoing research projects and the largest number of active members in its history.
6) The Kennesaw Journal of Undergraduate Research (KJUR) is an online, peer-reviewed journal for KSU students to publish their scholarship. The journal is very high quality; it currently has only a 29% acceptance rate.

7) The Office of Undergraduate Research offers assistance to students and faculty mentors about undergraduate research topics. For example, they provide online resources; a workshop series; customized visits to classes, departments, and/or organizations on campus; and individual consultations.

8) Kennesaw State University was awarded the bid to host the National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) in April 2019. This conference brought to the KSU campus nearly 5,000 undergraduate researchers, administrators, faculty, and staff from around the nation. As part of KSU’s commitment to undergraduate research, classes for the 2.5-day event were redirected to the conference, and thousands of KSU students, faculty, staff, and administrators served as volunteers. NCUR 2019 was the largest NCUR in its 33-year history.

The Office of Undergraduate Research is committed to assisting faculty and staff who obtain grants involving undergraduate researchers. For example:

- The Office of Undergraduate Research will facilitate workshops specifically for the PIs on topics such as best practices in mentoring undergraduate researchers, helping students present and publish their work, and working with teams of undergraduate researchers.

- The Office of Undergraduate Research will facilitate workshops for the undergraduate researchers on topics such as how to navigate academic conferences, how to make a poster, how to deliver oral presentations at conferences, and how to apply for KSU student travel funds.

- There are several funding mechanisms that are available for students who work on research. For instance, they can apply for the student travel funds ($1,000 maximum for students to present at a conference). Faculty who mentor teams of undergraduate researchers can apply for up to $8,000 grants. Students can also apply for the funding to present at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research. If the project is selected as a First-Year Scholars Program project, both the faculty mentor and the student will receive $2,000 in funding over the next academic year.

- The Office of Undergraduate Research will write one or more feature stories about the grant in the Office of Research Magazine.

- The Office of Undergraduate Research will write a letter of support for the grant (please email our@kennesaw.edu).