Research Opportunities at Michigan Tech

Finding a Research Mentor
The Process

- Identify an interesting field
- Identify possible mentors
- Research faculty mentors
- Prepare your resume
- Contact potential mentors
- The interview
- Accepting a position
Identify an interesting field

- Make a list of subjects that you find most interesting
  - Explore your textbook indices
  - Explore departmental web sites
- Remember, research is interdisciplinary
Identify Possible Mentors

- Ask your TA’s and Professors
- Talk to your academic advisor
- Talk to other students – older students
- Use search engines to search university web pages

*Each department has its own culture*
Research Faculty Mentors

Check out expertise and interests

Find contact info

Explore Recent Work and Funding
Andrew J. Storer

School of Forest Resources and Environmental Science
Michigan Technological University
1400 Townsend Drive
Houghton, Michigan, 49931, USA

Telephone: (906) 487-3470
Email: storer@mtu.edu
Fax: (906) 487-2615

EXPERIENCE

2009 – Present  Professor, Forest Insect Ecology, School of Forest Resources and Environmental Science, Michigan Technological University
2010 – Present  Director of Graduate Studies, School of Forest Resources and Environmental Science, Michigan Technological University
2007 – Present  Director, The Honors Institute, Michigan Technological University
2002 – 2009  Associate Professor, Forest Insect Ecology, School of Forest Resources and Environmental Science, Michigan Technological University
2001 – 2006  Assistant Professor, Forest Insect Ecology, School of Forest Resources and Environmental Science, Michigan Technological University
1998 - 2001  Assistant Research Entomologist, Div. Insect Biology, University of California, Berkeley
1999 - 2001  Instructor, Department of Landscape Horticulture, Merritt College, Oakland
1992 - 1997  Postdoctoral Researcher, Division of Insect Biology, University of California, Berkeley
1986 - 1987  School Teacher, Qundle School, Qundle, England
1986 - 1991  Research Student, University of Oxford
1986 - 1990  Tutor, Department of Zoology, University of Oxford
1986 - 1986  Wiener-Anapach Research Fellow, University of Brussels, Belgium

EDUCATION

D.Phil. Department of Zoology, University of Oxford, Forest Entomology, 1993
M.A. St. Anne’s College, University of Oxford, 1986
B.A. (Hons) Pure and Applied Biology, St. Anne’s College, University of Oxford, 1986

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Entomological Society of America, Entomological Society of Canada, Society of American Foresters
Xi Sigma Pi Forestry Honor Society

AWARDS

Michigan Technological University, Graduate Mentor Award, 2009
Prepare Your Resume (CV)

- Education
- Relevant Coursework
- Leadership Experience
- Honors and Awards
- Specialized Skills

Should be 1-2 pages in length
Contact Potential Mentors

- Formal salutation
- Your name and major/department affiliation
- Purpose for contact (e.g. research position)
- Major research interests and enthusiasm for gaining research experience
- How do your research interests relate to the mentor’s research (e.g. why this specific mentor?)
- Your contact information
- Attach your updated CV
The Interview

- How will research experience will be structured?
  - Who will supervise and/or direct your research efforts
  - How often will you meet to discuss your work
  - What precisely will you be responsible for doing
  - What types of lab safety training will you need
- Will you be an intellectual participant and not just a technical assistant?
- Does mentor make you feel comfortable and accepted?

Understand that you may find one or more faculty who are unable to accept you into their research program at any given time
Accepting a Position

- Agree on a pay rate or that the position is voluntary
- Agree on a work schedule
  - Faculty usually appreciate students who can devote larger blocks of time (3+ hours) at one time
  - Understand if travel or weekend work is necessary and/or acceptable
- Be prepared to complete any safety training quickly and responsibly
- Find out what you will need to bring to work on the first day
  - Every day, be prepared for the necessity to take notes (bring a notebook and pencil)

*If you need to decline a position do it in a timely and courteous manner*
Research Internship Programs

- Student and mentor work on project description
- Letter of support from mentor or recommendation letters
- 3 Michigan Tech Programs
- Numerous other off-campus programs
Undergraduate Research Internship Program

- Students new to research!!
- Health-related fields
- $1600 towards an hourly job with a faculty member on campus from mid-October through March
- Professional development and presentation at Undergraduate Research Symposium in March
- Applications due 10/2
  - There will be a Spring Application Round for Fall startup
Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship
- Open to all undergraduate students on campus!!
- 10-week summer internship with $4000 stipend
- Professional development opportunities
- Required to present findings at public forum
- Applications due late January
- 2 application workshops – early Dec & early Jan
Michigan Space Grant Consortium Fellowships

- Open to all undergraduate students on campus
- Proposal must have a NASA-related focus
- $2500 fellowship for summer or academic year internship (May 2017-April 2018)
- Opportunity to present at MSGC Conference
- Applications due early November
Additional Research Programs and Opportunities

The Research Pathway offers students numerous ways to get involved in groundbreaking research as an undergraduate. Michigan Tech offers paid, volunteer, and for-credit opportunities across all colleges and majors—all of which can count toward your Honors requirements.

Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU)

Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) is a program dedicated to equipping undergraduate students with the appropriate funding and mentorship to pursue research of topics from various fields, mainly focusing on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

Oak Ridge National Laboratory Challenge Program

Applications are now being accepted for the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) Challenge Program, an innovative new program designed to give undergraduates an early start on the scientific process and solving real world science problems. The program is a 10-week summer internship that awards winning candidates a competitive weekly stipend, furnished housing, and travel assistance to and from ORNL. Participants will be able to conduct hands-on research under the direction of a scientist or engineer at ORNL. Eligible applicants must be an undergraduate junior or senior in good standing at a regionally accredited U.S. college or university. Participants are selected based on their ability to derive a
Let’s practice!