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
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
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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
2005 - 2009  Associate Professor, Forest Insect Ecology, School of Forest Resources and Environmental Science, Michigan Technological University
2001 - 2005  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, Merit College, Oakland
1992 - 1997  Postdoctoral Researcher, Division of Insect Biology, University of California, Berkeley
1990 - 1991  School Teacher, Culver School, Culver, England
1986 - 1991  Research Student, University of Oxford
1986 - 1990  Tutor, Department of Zoology, University of Oxford
1988 - 1989  Wiener-Aspechi Research Fellow, University of Brussels, Belgium

EDUCATION
D.Phil., Department of Zoology, University of Oxford, 1993
M.A., St. Anne’s College, University of Oxford, 1993
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 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
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 September through March
- Professional development and presentation at Undergraduate Research Symposium in March
- Applications due 3/28
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 in October
- Applications due early November
Additional Research Programs and Opportunities

There are numerous ways undergraduate students at Michigan Tech can get involved with groundbreaking research. There are paid, volunteer, and for-credit opportunities across all colleges and majors—all of which can count toward your Honors requirements. The following external opportunities have varying open application periods. We recommend you check the program website provided for specific deadlines.

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).

Barry Goldwater Scholarship

The Barry Goldwater Scholarship is for sophomores and juniors who intend to pursue research careers in the natural sciences, mathematics and engineering.
Join the Pavlis Honors College

Need at least 4 semesters left on campus to apply

Research Scholars Pathway

Join a community where curiosity drives discovery. The Research Scholars Pathway allows undergraduates to connect with faculty and students conducting cutting-edge research. Be the first to know about opportunities for research both on and off campus. Build your professional skills by conducting, presenting and publishing your own research while gaining hands-on experience that will prepare you for graduate school or a career in research and development.

- Seminar Courses
- Academic Enhancement
- Immersion Experience
- Honors Project
- Leadership and Mentorship

Typical Program Timeline

Deadline for consideration for Fall 2018: April 2nd

Other Pathways include Innovation, Global Leadership, Community Engagement, Enterprise and Custom
Lorelle A. Meadows, Dean
lameadows@mtu.edu

Thank you!