



Distinguished Undergraduate Research Honors

DUR Process and Requirements

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2026-27 CALS Academic Awards Committee Chairperson

DUR Honors Recognition

- Open to all seniors in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
- Applicants for consideration in the DUR Honors process **must submit a proposal** on or before the deadlines outlined in the DUR Guidelines
 - (<https://www.uvm.edu/cals/cals-distinguished-undergraduate-research-dur-program>)
- Following acceptance of proposal, DUR candidates must:
 - Complete original research
 - Summarize findings in a written thesis
 - Present finding to review committee (and others as appropriate)
 - Complete any revisions required by review committee members
 - Submit all required materials to the CALS Academic Awards Committee

Deadlines

See webpage for details

<https://www.uvm.edu/cals/cals-distinguished-undergraduate-research-duration-program>

Outline of Process

1. Attend DUR Info Session
2. Identify Mentor
 - Identify Project
 - Identify Review Committee
3. Submit DUR proposal
 - **Semester before you defend thesis** (graduation)
 - Reviewed by CALS Academic Awards Committee
4. Submit Project Update
 - Early in semester you will graduate
5. Write completed thesis/project summary
6. Submit written thesis/project summary to your review committee prior to oral presentation
7. Oral presentation
 - Revisions (as needed) suggested by review committee
 - Obtain signed review committee form endorsing your work for DUR Honors
8. Submit final DUR written thesis/project summary to CALS Academic Award committee

DUR Process: Identify Mentor

- **Applicant must identify a mentor with whom they will complete the proposed project**
- **Mentor may be:**
 - **University of Vermont faculty member**
 - **Includes Larner College of Medicine faculty and/or research associate**
 - **Non-UVM community member**



DUR Process: Identify Your Review Committee

- **Applicant must identify a minimum of three (3) individuals for their review committee**
 - Includes project mentor
 - At least one (1) member must be CALS Faculty
 - At least two (2) members must be UVM community members (includes LCOM)

Application Process: Review Committee Responsibilities

- Review committee responsibilities:
 - Review proposal **before** it is submitted for DUR Honors Committee review
 - Review final written thesis/project summary **before** public presentation
 - Attend the public presentation of the student's work
 - Sign form indicating they believe the completed work meets the standards of research in the field and is deserving of DUR Honors recognition



DUR Process: Submit a Well Written Proposal

- Proposal must include a clearly articulated hypothesis/question of inquiry and methods
 - Identify specific statistical analysis which will be applied to data
- Proposal must have been reviewed by **all review committee members**
 - NOTE: Students should not submit a DUR award proposal which has not been evaluated by all of the review committee members

Application Process: Submit Proposal to CALS Academic Awards Committee

- Complete application materials should be submitted to the CALS Dean's Office at the email indicated in the DUR Guidelines
 - Cover sheet of proposal
 - Letter of support from your project mentor
 - List of members of your review committee
 - Student reflection
- Failure to supply **ALL materials by the dates and time** indicated in the DUR Guidelines will result in automatic removal from consideration for DUR Honors recognition



Application Process: The CALS Academic Awards Committee

- Review all DUR materials (and other awards materials)
- Submit names to the CALS Dean's Office for those projects which have been identified to receive DUR Honors recognition

Application Process: Review of the Proposal by the CALS Academic Awards Committee

- All proposals received on time will be reviewed by two or more of the CALS Academic Awards Committee
- Committee members will submit comments and recommendations
 - Accept without reservations. **No proposal defense needed**
 - Accept with reservation. **Resubmission required**
 - Reject. Students can resubmit if desired



Application Process: Submit Project Update

- Students must write up a 1-2 page summary of work to date and submit on or before date outlined in DUR Guidelines
 - (<https://www.uvm.edu/cals/cals-distinguished-undergraduate-research-dur-program>)

Application Process:

Write Thesis/project summary

- Students:
 - Prepare written thesis/project summary following the guidelines of a journal to which it ***could*** be submitted
 - Submit written thesis to their review committee **one week prior to their oral presentation**
- Review committee:
 - Reviews written thesis/project summary and makes suggested changes to the manuscript at the time of the oral presentation
- Students:
 - revise written thesis/project summary to the final version and submit to the CALS Academic Awards Committee for final consideration



Application Process: Oral presentation of thesis research

- Students are required to prepare and present a 12-20 minute presentation of their research and findings
- The presentation should be in the home department in which the mentor is located
- Presentations may be
 - Lab meeting
 - Departmental seminar or
 - Specially called meeting
- ALL three (3) members of the student's review committee must be present at the presentation
- Following the presentation students should obtain the signature of their review committee members indicating they believe the research is meritorious and deserving of DUR Honors recognition





Application Process: Final Submittal of Materials

- **Students must present ALL required materials on or before the time identified in the DUR Guidelines**
- Required materials include:
 - Final version of manuscript (docx)
 - Student reflection (minimum of one page) on what they learned through the process of completing their research (docx)
 - Original review committee signature page
 - Mentor evaluation and final letter of support