UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH INCENTIVE PROGRAM
Academic Year 2014 – 2015

The College of Engineering (COE) offers an opportunity for undergraduate students to participate in research with a faculty member. The program objectives are to stimulate awareness of advanced research and interest in graduate study. The program is open to outstanding, full-time sophomore, junior and senior COE students. Students in the program will work an average of ten hours per week on-campus during the academic year under the guidance of a COE professor on a specific research topic. The program is funded on a matching basis by the faculty sponsor and the College of Engineering.

Faculty research activities provide unique opportunities for individualized instruction and exposure to cutting-edge, emerging technologies. Students in this incentive program will:
• Be exposed to research early in their academic careers;
• Have first-hand experiences with research faculty and/or graduate students.

Faculty participants will:
• Be able to engage and recruit top undergraduate students to their research program;
• Extend their research funding and productivity.

Initially, the program will be offered as a research internship opportunity that enables selected students to work for a faculty member up to 10 hours a week in their sophomore, junior, or senior years. Remuneration (suggested at $10.00/hr for sophomores, $11.00/hr for juniors and $12.00/hr for seniors or $10.00/hr minimum) is shared (50-50) by the College and by the faculty advisor of the student (e.g., from a sponsored project, indirect cost account or a department match). Faculty/departments will be responsible for recruiting qualified students for the program and submitting an application form with a brief project description to Debbie Raposa (draposa@umassd.edu), Dion 319B, ext. 8387.

During the first week of the semester each student should meet with their faculty mentor to define a research plan and schedule and be put on the payroll. The student responsibilities are to fulfill the minimum ten hours per week research obligation and submit a brief summary report and a 100-word abstract on their research at the end of each term. Program eligibility requires students having a minimum overall GPA of 3.00 and maintaining satisfactory laboratory performance and on availability of funds. The responsible faculty member fosters a meaningful research experience and evaluates performance at the end of each semester.

To the extent possible URIP funds will be deployed to maximize the distribution of student/faculty participants. Summer employment is by arrangement between the student and faculty member only as College resources are limited during the period. More information is available by contacting the program coordinator: Debbie Raposa (draposa@umassd.edu), Dion 319B, ext. 8387.