

## **New Course Attribute: Research or Creative Scholarship Proposed to Academic Council Friday April 3, 2020**

The Undergraduate Research Office and CAS Student Research Committee propose to create a new, campus-wide course attribute to recognize courses involving significant research or creative scholarship, in which students' projects make original intellectual or creative contributions to their disciplines.

### **Benefits:**

1. The Research or Creative Scholarship course attribute will allow interested parties across campus (e.g., faculty, departments, colleges, administrators, assessment personnel) to **easily advertise opportunities and track student participation** in course-based research and creative projects. (There is currently no mechanism for this.)
2. Students will be able to see the attribute in Wingspan, allowing them to **choose courses** involving significant research or creative scholarship in accordance with their educational and career goals.
3. Faculty will have a convenient means of **documenting their roles as instructors** in these courses. (In the College of Arts and Sciences, instructors of record for courses on a Dean's Office-approved list may accrue reassign time related to their instruction of undergraduate research/scholarship.)
4. Within the next several years (according to the Registrar), course attributes may be **listed on students' transcripts**, providing direct evidence of students' scholarly or creative activity for future employers and/or graduate institutions.

### **Mechanism for applying the attribute to a course or section:**

1. The Research or Creative Scholarship attribute may be applied to courses (or course sections) in **all colleges and departments**, as they deem appropriate.
2. **Department Chairs (in consultation with instructors)** will indicate which courses or course sections should carry the Research or Creative Scholarship attribute when they make the course schedule. There will be **no** additional review or approval. (This is consistent with the policy in place for the Capstone Course attribute; it is also in line with the way that large Honors sections are managed.)
3. Some courses (e.g., Research/Methods courses) may have the attribute applied every semester, for every section. In other cases, the attribute may be carried by only certain sections, or in only certain semesters, as the Department Chair and instructor(s) deem appropriate. This could include creating sections for individual students (or small groups of students), if desired.

### **Characteristics of Research or Creative Scholarship courses or sections:**

We respect the primacy of Department Chairs (and instructors) in determining which courses or course sections in their departments should carry the Research or Creative Scholarship attribute. The characteristics below are provided to assist Chairs (and instructors) in making that determination.

- Courses or sections should engage all enrolled students in required research or creative scholarship: these student projects are expected to make **original intellectual or creative contributions to the discipline**, in

keeping with the definition of “undergraduate research” espoused by the Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR).

- In addition to so-called “Research” or “Methods” courses, we encourage Chairs to consider whether existing traditional and/or Capstone courses or sections in their departments should carry the attribute, **if** students complete projects that make **original intellectual or creative contributions to the discipline**. (We note that introductory-level General Education courses/sections (e.g., WRIT 101, etc.) would likely **not** meet this criterion.)
- We expect that students will produce formal products resulting from their research or creative scholarship, of a quality **appropriate** for sharing outside the classroom, in campus and/or extramural venues (e.g., SOURCE and campus exhibitions/performances; extramural conferences, performances, and exhibitions; publications, etc.) Note that we are **not** suggesting that all products will or must be shared, only that their quality should make such sharing possible.
- We anticipate that courses or sections will educate students about appropriate methods/approaches and norms, etc., for original research or creative scholarship in the discipline. Research or creative scholarship and related instruction should be a significant focus of the course/section.
- Courses or sections should allow for significant feedback/mentoring from the instructor(s), enabling students to produce high-quality products. (This may be difficult to achieve with large enrollments.)