

Questions you might have about taking on research as an undergrad.

Q1: Before taking on research, do I need to know what I want to do in my life?

A1: Definitely not for some labs. We commonly find that doing research as an undergrad changes perspectives. Even if you think you know where you are headed, it may well change because of the impact of doing research.

Q2: Do I need to schedule research time the same way I do my classes?

A2: Usually not. The weekly research schedule may be largely up to you (depends on the professor). But you should be prepared that there will be times when you need to be in the lab at odd hours.

Q3: How much time do I need to commit?

A3: That varies with the professor and project. 5 hours per week is likely a minimum, but that will vary from week to week. And you should consider doing your research over the summer when you have more free time.

Q4: When should I start looking for a project?

A4: That will depend on your other commitments. If you are new to college, you might