The Undergraduate Research Program in the Division of Undergraduate Studies invites tenured and tenure-track faculty to join the Undergraduate Research Learning Pathways Committee (URLPC). One of the goals of the committee for AY 2015/16 is to develop a series of courses as part of the General Education Program that provide a learning pathway for students in undergraduate scholarship.

**2015-16 URLPC**

**Chair:**
Eniko Csomay, Professor and Associate Dean, College of Arts and Letters

**Members:**
Dani Bedau, ARTS Alive, Director
Chris Harrison, Associate Professor of Chemistry
Katie Houk, Senior Assistant Librarian
D.J. Hopkins, Professor and Director, School of Theatre, Television and Film
Elizabeth Pollard, Associate Professor of History
Kristen Wells, Assistant Professor of Psychology
Jose Preciado, Undergraduate Research Program, Director

The URLPC offers an opportunity for faculty to collaborate in the conceptualization and development of a sequence of courses as part of the lower and upper division General Education Program. Courses will introduce and deepen student learning in research, scholarship, performance and/or creative activities as practiced by faculty representing the University’s various disciplines and fields of inquiry. The main deliverable for this effort is the adoption, through the campus curriculum process, of General Studies 290 Introduction to Undergraduate Research, General Studies 390A-Research in the Arts and Creative Practices, General Studies 390B-Research in the Social and Behavioral Sciences, General Studies 390C-Research in the Humanities and General Studies
390D: Research in the Natural Sciences. These courses will offer students a learning pathway to fully participate as juniors and seniors in research or creative endeavors with faculty mentors in their majors or fields of study.

This committee serves to advance two key initiatives of SDSU’s Building on Excellence Strategic Plan. The first initiative, that is part of the plan’s Student Success Goal, is the development of small courses and programs to support student learning and achievement through undergraduate research, scholarship, performance and/or creative activities (URSCA). The second initiative, that is part of the plan’s Research and Creative Endeavors Goal, is the integration of student success activities with the scholarly and instructional professional growth agenda of the faculty.

The members of this work group will include the director of the Undergraduate Research Program and up to 10 faculty. Participants will:

● Review and discuss the scholarship on supporting undergraduate research across the disciplines and fields of inquiry;
● Review the Seven Essential Capacities of SDSU’s General Education program and discuss connections with undergraduate research;
● Develop student learning outcomes for one or two lower-division GE course(s) and four upper-division GE courses on undergraduate RSCA; identify appropriate measures to assess achievement of those outcomes, including developing and/or refining rubrics for assessing student work; and developing syllabi, course materials and assignments for these courses.

The URLPC will function as a group and may also subdivide into pairs of faculty.

GEN S 290: Introduction to Undergraduate Research

GEN S 390A: Research in the Arts and Creative Practices Natural Sciences
GEN S 390B: Research in the Social and Behavioral Sciences
GEN S 390C: Research in the Humanities
GEN S 390D: Research in the Natural Sciences

Participants will be invited to teach these developed courses as Special Topics Courses in Fall 2016 and/or Spring 2017. Home departments and schools (Colleges) will receive course replacement at the CSU replacement cost rate.

In addition, the Library, through the representation of Katie Houk on the URLPC, is proposing a 1-credit General Studies course tentatively titled General Studies 291 Scholarly Research Lab. The goal of the course is to prepare students to conduct powerful and efficient research using library and other well-regarded resources; understand legal, ethical, and social issues surrounding research and information; and practice writing and presenting in the style of their discipline of research. This course
will support the efforts of the 290 and 390 courses by providing the skills and knowledge necessary to prepare to conduct research, and practice in presenting their research and findings to other scholars.

**Expectations** – Each URLPC faculty contributor is expected to meet the following obligations:

*Active engagement in the committee:* Committee membership involves engaging with colleagues through regular and frequent meetings over the 2015-2016 academic year (October 1 through April 30). It is expected that the committee will meet at least once a month as a full group; it is expected that smaller teams will also meet separately as needed. During the committee’s first meeting, dates for meetings throughout Fall 2015 will be established based on the faculty members collective availability.

*Production of course materials for General Studies courses:* The specific deliverables for this Learning Community will include
  - Syllabi for each of the 3 unit courses
  - Course outline, activities for 15 weeks of direct instruction, supervision or mentoring
  - Assignments with corresponding assessments
  - Undergraduate Curriculum proposal submitted through CurricuNet for each course proposal
  - General Education Course proposal submitted through CurricuNet for each course proposal
  - Bibliography for each course

These materials need to be submitted by the established deadlines for new curricular proposals for the Fall 2017/18 general catalog that will commence in Spring 2016. Courses will be taught as soon as permitted or as special topics prior to Fall 2017.

These materials will be made available for university wide use as exemplars of undergraduate research learning. They will be published on the Undergraduate Research Program website and will be available for broad distribution to all the colleges and the Imperial Valley Campus.