



Undergraduate Research Fellowship



Overview

The Undergraduate Research Fellowships provide a research experience for undergraduate students and assist staff in the Division in conducting research projects in support of student success. Spring 2021 was the initial pilot of the program with 4 research projects and 5 fellows.



Spring 2021 Projects

Projects included: literature review on belonging and inclusion, the impact of peer led conversations on learning outcomes for residential students, behavior change in bystander intervention education, and connection between dining and belonging in the first year.



Fellow Learning

Fellows indicated that as a result of this experience they can create clear objectives or research questions for a research project, select the most effective methodology to use, and present their research to a broader audience.



Fellow Quote

"I learned how to interpret findings from peer-reviewed articles and ask questions of my own. I also learned how to dissect information that is most relevant to me and developed skills to better identify information such as this."



Mentor Learning

Mentors appreciated the opportunity to provide students with a high-impact experience, to work with a student on a project that improves the student experience, and to meet with other mentors to discuss successes and challenges in monthly check-in meetings.



Mentor Quote

"This was a great opportunity to work with a student within a high impact practice and to have additional support with an ongoing question we've been exploring."



Next Steps

Both fellows and mentors indicated that they needed more time to work on projects/research. In 2021, projects will start at the beginning of the semester and can last a full academic year to ensure enough time for project completion. Mentors also indicated that centralized training on how to conduct research is essential for fellows to be successful. Starting in fall 2021, the Division of Student Life will partner with the Iowa Center for Research by Undergraduates (ICRU) to support fellow research training, including the presentation of their research through the annual ICRU poster presentation event.