

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA ASHEVILLE

FACULTY SENATE

Senate Document Number SD7424S

Date of Senate Approval 05/02/2024

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Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

**APC Document 62 (UGR):**                      **Change the name of Undergraduate Research Program to Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Program**

**Effective Date: Fall 2024**

1.     **Delete:** On page 62, the entry for the Undergraduate Research Program:

**Undergraduate Research Program**

The Undergraduate Research Program at UNC Asheville seeks to encourage the establishment of faculty/student research pairs who work together on a project of mutual interest. Research may be performed in any discipline on campus. The mentoring relationship developed through the research process is beneficial to the student and to the faculty member. Students have the opportunity to participate in the research from beginning to end, to go beyond the classroom experience and investigate an idea in great depth and to learn about the excitement (and frustrations) of research.

The Undergraduate Research Program provides academic-year and summer student research and travel grants. These are monetary awards given to students for research and/or travel expenses. Students apply by submitting a brief description of the research project and a budget plan to the Undergraduate Research Program Advisory Council. Projects to be funded are selected by the Council. Forms for grant submission are available from the Undergraduate Research Office.

- Add:**            On page 62, in place of deleted entry:

**Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Program**

The Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Program at UNC Asheville seeks to encourage the establishment of faculty/student research pairs who work together on a project of mutual interest. Research may be performed in any discipline on campus. The mentoring relationship developed through the research process is beneficial to the student and to the faculty member. Students have the opportunity to participate in the research from beginning to end, to go beyond the classroom experience and investigate an idea in great depth and to learn about the excitement (and frustrations) of research.

The Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Program provides academic-year and summer student research and travel grants. These are monetary awards given to students for research and/or travel expenses. Students apply by submitting a brief description of the research project and a budget plan to the Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Program Advisory Council. Projects to be funded are selected by the Council. Forms for grant submission are available from the Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Office.

**Impact Statement:** Revising the name has no resource implications. It is important to note this is a change in only the name of the program; the name of the distinction awarded at graduation will remain as Distinction as a University Research Scholar, per the original Faculty Senate document, [SD2791S](#), that established the distinction.

**Rationale:** In order to be inclusive of all students who engage in original projects, this proposal asks to add Creative Activity in the title of the program to become the Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Program. Creative Activity has been a part of the program since its inception, but students can be confused as to whether their work counts as research and choose not to engage in the program due to this confusion. The name change is intended to alleviate confusion and foster an atmosphere of inclusivity.

The [Council on Undergraduate Research](#) (CUR) states:

“Undergraduate research, scholarship, and creative inquiry is fundamentally a pedagogical approach to teaching and learning. With an emphasis on process, CUR defines undergraduate research as: A mentored investigation or **creative inquiry** conducted by undergraduates that seeks to make a scholarly or **artistic** contribution to knowledge.”

Since Fall 2021, the [Symposia schedule](#) has been called the “Symposium on Undergraduate Research, Creativity, and Community Engagement.”

In the Faculty Senate document, [SD2791S](#), *APC Document #21: Undergraduate Research Scholar Designation*, which went into effect in Fall 1991, creative activity has been advertised, including the statement: “The research/creative project will be presented...students..may consult URPAC concerning the appropriate format, especially in the case of artistic projects.”

Examples of other schools that have creative activity in the name of their programs include [UNC Greensboro](#): Undergraduate Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity; [Clemson University](#): Creative Inquiry + Undergraduate Research; [Vancouver Island University](#): Scholarship, Research & Creative Activity.

The Undergraduate Research Program reached out to departments across campus and received strong support for the change. Only one department expressed concern that creative activity is different from scholarly research.