
Research Practice 97XD

Research Unwrapped: Introduction to Research in the Sciences

Summer Session A6: June 22 – July 31, 2026

1-unit Seminar (P/NP)

Tuesdays from 3:30-5:20PM

Geology 4645

Course Description

Research Practice (RES PRC) 97XD exposes students to university research and a wide array of research practices in the sciences. Students will be introduced to undergraduate research, the scientific method, information and publication search strategies, science communication and degrees and careers requiring research experience. This is a 1 unit Pass/No Pass (P/NP) grading course which *does NOT include any physical lab work.*

Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, students will:

- Gain an understanding and appreciation of the role of a research university
- Become acquainted with the practice of research
- Learn about undergraduate research and the scientific method
- Gain knowledge about science communication
- Learn how to search for information and publications
- Learn about degrees/careers requiring research experience

Course Requirements

Attendance and Participation

This class meets for two hours each week over six weeks. You will receive 1 point for attending and participating in each class meeting. **No more than one absence is allowed for a passing grade.** This means you must attend and participate in at least 5 classes. Students must arrive on time and stay for the full meeting time (3:30-5:20pm). *If you are absent for more than one class, you are subject to disciplinary action up to dismissal from SCIP+ with no refund.*

Readings

Students are responsible for completing all assigned readings *prior* to the class for which they are assigned. All course readings will be available on the course Bruin Learn site. It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with the Bruin Learn platform and stay up to date on all required readings.

Class Activities

You will have six in-class activities worth 1 point each. You will receive formative feedback for each completed activity.

Grading

This is a Pass/No Pass (P/NP) course evaluated based on attendance, participation, and completion of in-class activities. To pass this course, you must attend and participate in a minimum of 5 class meetings and complete all in-class activities. If you miss a class, you must complete a makeup assignment for the class that you missed for credit.

Attendance: 6 points (1 point per session)

In-class activities: 6 points (1 point per activity)

Total: 12 points (11 points are required to pass the course)

RES PRC 97XD 2026 Schedule*

Week	Date	Topic	Location	In-class Activity	Readings
1	Tuesday, June 23	Introduction to Research; Identify Your Research Interests	Geology 4645	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploration of Research Interests • Choose Faculty Guest Speaker for Week 4 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Beginning Your Research Journey</u>
2	Tuesday, June 30	The Scientific Method; Research Design <i>Student Panel: UCLA Undergraduate Researcher</i>	Geology 4645	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create Questions on Research Design for Student Panel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Brainstorm Your Research Journey</u>
3	Tuesday, July 6	Collecting Sources; Information and Publication Search Strategies <i>Guest Speaker: UCLA Librarian (California Digital Library)</i>	Geology 4645	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify Research Article 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Finding Sources at UCLA</u> • Primary and Secondary
4	Tuesday, July 13	Ethical Issues and Integrity in Research; History of Human Subjects <i>Guest Speaker: UCLA Faculty and Institutional Review Board</i>	Geology 4645		
5	Tuesday, July 20	Science Communication: Elevator Pitch	Geology 4645	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present Elevator Pitch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Deconstructing the Elevator Speech</u>
6	Tuesday, July 28	Degrees/Careers Requiring Research Experience	Geology 4645	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of Research Article 	

*Subject to change.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to practice academic integrity and comply with UCLA's Student Conduct Code. Violations or attempted violations of academic dishonesty such as falsifying attendance, fabrication or plagiarism are investigated seriously, and may constitute grounds for dismissal from this course.

Academic Accommodations

Students needing academic accommodations based on a disability or COVID-related accommodations should contact the Center for Accessible Education (CAE) at 310.825.1501 or in person at Murphy Hall A-255. When possible, students should contact the CAE within the first two weeks of the term as reasonable notice is needed to coordinate accommodations. For more information visit <https://cae.ucla.edu>.

Class Conduct and Commitment to Inclusivity

It is always important we respect each other's perspectives (in so far as they are not willfully harmful or harassing others). The instructor and students must always be respectful, treating everyone with patience. Failure to do so may result in removal from the course.

UCLA's Office for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion provides resources, events, and information about current initiatives at UCLA to support equality for all members of the UCLA community. We hope that you will communicate with us if you experience anything in this course that does not support an inclusive environment, and you can also report any incidents you may witness or experience on campus to the Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion on their website (<https://equity.ucla.edu/>).

COVID-19 Guidance

Ensuring a safer campus depends on each of us following the latest UCLA health and safety guidelines. While campus policies must be modified to address changing local, state, and national orders and guidance, the most current information is available at <https://covid-19.ucla.edu>.

Title IX Office

Title IX prohibits gender discrimination, including sexual harassment, domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. If you have experienced sexual harassment or sexual violence, you can receive confidential support and advocacy at the CARE Advocacy Office for Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, 1st Floor Wooden Center West, CAREadvocate@careprogram.ucla.edu, 310.206.2465. In addition, Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) provides confidential counseling to all students and can be reached 24/7 at 310.825.0768. You can also report sexual violence or sexual harassment directly to the University's Title IX Coordinator, 2241 Murphy Hall, titleix@conet.ucla.edu, 310.206.3417. Reports to law enforcement can be made to UCPD at 310.825.1491.