

Office of Undergraduate Research:

Kennesaw State University is committed to advancing undergraduate research. In July 2016, an Office of Undergraduate Research was created (<http://research.kennesaw.edu/our/>) in the Office of Research. This office’s mission is to promote high-quality undergraduate student-faculty collaborative research and scholarship in all disciplines across the university and aims to 1) make research an integral part of the undergraduate experience at KSU and 2) become a premier resource for undergraduate research both at KSU and nationally.

The Office of Undergraduate Research consists of a full-time director (a tenured full professor), a full-time administrative assistant, a full-time business operations specialist, a full-time program manager, and two part-time student assistants.

The Office of Undergraduate Research oversees several initiatives as described below:

- 1) The Office of Undergraduate Research has a monthly newsletter titled “OUR Scoop.” In the newsletter, students are informed about upcoming deadlines and events, undergraduate researchers are spotlighted, and students are informed about ways to get involved in undergraduate research.
- 2) The Office of Undergraduate Research assists students and faculty mentors with undergraduate research topics. For example, they provide online resources; a workshop series; customized visits to classes, departments, and/or organizations on campus; and individual consultations.
- 3) The Symposium of Student Scholars is an annual event that celebrates student research. It began in 1996 as a small event (17 posters) in the College of Science and Mathematics; it now includes students from all colleges at KSU. The event has grown dramatically in submissions from students and faculty over the last several years (see Figure 1).

4) The Undergraduate Research Club (URC) is a registered student organization on campus dedicated to promoting student-faculty collaborative research. Club members work on research in teams and present at the Symposium of Student Scholars and the National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR).

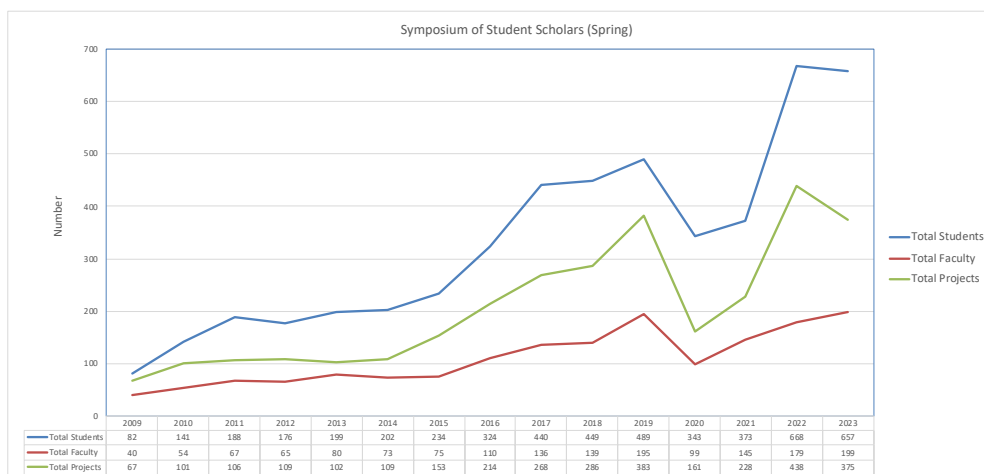


Figure 1: Symposium of Student Scholars – Spring Edition

- 5) The *Kennesaw Journal of Undergraduate Research* (KJUR) is an online, peer-reviewed journal for KSU students to publish their scholarship. The journal is very high quality; it currently has only a 37% acceptance rate. As of February 2024, journal articles have been downloaded over 117,000 times from over 200 different countries.
- 6) The Office of Undergraduate Research provides funding to promote undergraduate research at KSU.
 - a. Students can apply for undergraduate research funding (up to \$1,000) for supplies, travel, stipends, or publication costs. Students can also apply for the First-Year Scholars Program, which provides a stipend (\$2,000) for conducting research in their first year of college. Experienced students can become a paid Peer Mentor for current First-Year Scholars.
 - b. Faculty can also apply to become mentors in the First-Year Scholars Program (\$1,000 per student), the Sophomore Scholars Program (\$1,000 per student), or in a VIP (Vertically Integrated Projects) team (\$5,000).
 - c. Faculty and students can apply for our Summer Undergraduate Research Program, in which faculty and students earn \$4,000 each. Faculty funding can go toward supplies for research, course releases, summer stipends, travel expenses, etc.

- d. Applications for all funding mechanisms have increased every year for the last 8 years.
- 7) Kennesaw State University was awarded the bid to host the National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) in April 2019. This conference convened nearly 5,000 domestic and international undergraduate researchers in addition to administrators, faculty, and staff. As part of KSU's commitment to undergraduate research, classes for the 2.5-day event were redirected to the conference, and over 1,000 KSU students, faculty, staff, and administrators assisted as volunteers.
 - 8) For the last several years, the Office of Undergraduate Research has fully funded at least one student from each project that was accepted for presentation at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR). Since 2016, KSU undergraduates have presented at NCUR, with significant growth over the years. In 2019, as host of NCUR KSU had close to 400 projects presented. From 2018-2022, KSU had the most student presenters of any institution except for the host institution.
 - 9) The Office of Undergraduate Research moved to KSU's newest building, the Academic Learning Center, in November 2021. The space includes a video wall, worktables, cubicles, and informal seating. Undergraduate researchers and their mentors can reserve all or part of the suite to conduct meetings and work on research projects.