Student attitudes toward off-campus research experiences

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Undergraduate research provides students with the opportunity to authentically engage in a professional and established scientific process\(^1\). Students who participate in experiential learning through contributions to off-campus projects were found to have enhanced communication, intrapersonal skills, leadership, self-efficacy and more compared to students who did not participate in such experiences\(^2\). Off campus research experience can help better prepare students for post graduate endeavors such as career attainment or continued education and it can also act as a pathway for minority students into science careers\(^3,4\).

Several students reported that they were able to participate in unexpected opportunities including but not limited to:

- Leading presentations
- Gaining admittance into future research programs
- Contributing to projects presented at conferences

When asked,

- 64% of students indicated they did not experience any unexpected issues within their SRS placement.
- 18% experienced transition in their lab supervisor/mentor due to various reasons

UMR students involved in the SRS program have greater emotional ownership than students contributing to research in a traditional lab and CURE

### References


### Final Thoughts

- Student research is a valuable experience; even when things do not proceed as expected.
- Invaluable skills are learned and practiced in the research setting that are advantageous in a wide variety of professional careers