

**Senate Higher Education Subcommittee  
Senate Finance Higher Education Subcommittee**

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## **Undergraduate Research at Texas Tech University**

Texas Tech University is a comprehensive, public research institution with a total fall 2007 enrollment of 28,260 students, including 23,021 undergraduates. A diverse set of academic offerings and interdisciplinary opportunities provide a vibrant academic experience for undergraduates, including strong research opportunities. TTU supports undergraduate research through specific, organized programs as well as individually tailored experiences.

### **Organized programs include:**

#### ***Texas Tech University Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) Undergraduate Research Scholars Program (URS)***

- Funded by grants from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute Undergraduate Science Education Program. TTU has received 5 grants totaling over \$7.8 million since 1992.
- TTU was the only Texas institution to receive a grant in 2002 and is the only Texas institution to receive continuous funding from HHMI.
- Strong science-based undergraduate research opportunities have been instrumental in TTU students receiving 31 Goldwater scholarships since 1994.
- TTU/HHMI URS annually supports approximately 40 students undertaking biological/biomedical research with hourly pay up to a maximum number of hours per week (15 fall/spring; 30 summer).

#### ***Honors College Undergraduate Research Fellowship Program (URF)***

- Modeled after the successful TTU/HHMI program and funded primarily by an endowment, the URF provides funding for undergraduates to participate in significant research experiences in all disciplines, not just science-related areas. Recent Fellows' research has been in history, music, and art, as well as STEM disciplines.
- URF annually supports approximately 40 Honors College students undertaking research in any disciplinary area with hourly pay up to 20 hours per week (summer funding possible).

#### ***McNair Scholars Program***

- Jointly funded through the United States Department of Education and a sophomore year initiative sponsored by Texas Tech University.
- McNair prepares First Generation College undergraduates from low-income backgrounds for doctoral study.
- In addition to research opportunities and mentoring support, McNair provides a stipend of \$2,800 and academic and personal support.

### **Students may also earn course credit for individually tailored research experiences with faculty from any discipline:**

- Approximately 2,000 undergraduates engage in research with faculty mentors each year in individually tailored experiences.
- Colleges including Engineering, Honors, Human Sciences, and Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources have web links to encourage interested undergraduates to pursue research, and academic advisers assist students in finding opportunities.

- A number of TTU interdisciplinary centers, including The Institute for Environmental and Human Health (TIEHH) and the Wind Science and Engineering (WISE) Research Center mentor undergraduate researchers.
- A unified website including information about all undergraduate research opportunities is scheduled for completion in the fall.

**Additional Support for Undergraduate Research:**

- TTU hosts Undergraduate Research Days, an annual, week-long event each spring with poster presentations, judging, and awards for undergraduate researchers.
- TTU maintains membership in the national Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR), with opportunities for travel to conferences for students, faculty, and staff.
- TTU maintains affiliate membership in the National Consortium of Specialized Secondary Schools of Mathematics, Science & Technology (NCSSSMST)
- TTU created a standing University-wide Undergraduate Research Committee in 2007-2008.