

From: [Redeker, Jean Marie](#)
To: [Reed, Kathy](#)
Cc: [Bichelmeyer, Barbara Anne](#); [Tuma, Faunia Marie](#); [Klusmeier, Susan](#); [Gaston, David](#); [Redeker, Jean Marie](#)
Subject: Discontinuance Request from Academic Success for Research Experience Program; Undergraduate Certificate
Date: Thursday, February 18, 2021 4:50:05 PM
Attachments: [REP Program Discontinuance Form feb 2021.pdf](#)

Kathy,

Attached is a request to discontinue the Undergraduate Research Certificate housed in Academic Success. USRR 8.2.3 requires the Provost office to submit the request to Governance upon receipt.

The request includes a rationale for the recommendation and the projected impact on KU's mission, students, and faculty. Copied on this request is the VP for Academic Success, Susan Klusmeier, and the AVP for Career & Experiential Learning, David Gaston.

Because this is an active academic program as defined by USRR 8.1.2 and is required to be submitted by the end of the third week of the Fall semester for consideration this academic year I understand that Governance may not consider the request until Fall 2021.

Please let me know if I can be of additional assistance.

All the best,
Jean

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Recommendation for Discontinuance of a Degree or Certificate Program

(USRR Academic Program Discontinuance Policy <https://policy.ku.edu/governance/USRR#ArticleVIII>)

Name of Program and Type of Program (Degree or Undergraduate or Graduate Certificate): Research Experience Program; Undergraduate Certificate

Academic plan and subplan codes to be retired: RESEXPR-UC

Department: Center for Undergraduate Research

School/College/Unit: Academic Success

CIP Code: 24.0102

Number of students currently enrolled (AIRE): 190 in Fall 2020

Number of students enrolled over the past five academic years (AIRE): 722

Number of program graduates over the past five years: 909 (613 auto-certified based on participation in Undergraduate Research Symposium)

Rationale for recommendation:

This certificate was designed to provide a way for students to represent their research experience to future employers and graduate programs. Students were required to take two self-determined classes relevant to their research and then present their research, and then they would receive their certificate. However, this certificate program is offering an inconsistent student experience, and also is redundant. First of all, research is highly discipline-specific, and thus there is no centralized experience for students in this program. Some departments offered a highly structured and consistent experience for students in this program, and some did not, and the students never engaged with the certificate program in a systematic way. Furthermore, and perhaps more crucially, the certificate program is unneeded, as research does not need an additional mechanism for representation to future employers and schools. Thus, over the past few years, we at the Center for Undergraduate Research have been working with students to better understand how to record their undergraduate research experiences on their resumes and CVs. We have partnered with the University Career Center to offer workshops on how to portray undergraduate research on resumes for job applications, we offer workshops on how to portray undergraduate research on CVs for graduate school applications, and our website redesign will include this information as well (similar to <https://undergradresearch.missouri.edu/how-to-put-research-on-your-resume/>). Finally, in an effort to make access to undergraduate research more widely available, and thus more equitable, we have begun to concentrate on working with faculty to create research-intensive classroom experiences. Thus far we have issued 17 mini-grants to faculty from departments around the university, who have added authentic research experiences into their classes. This, in turn, has allowed over three hundred students to experience undergraduate research.

[October 2020]

Impact of discontinuance:

On students: Students will be provided information on how to represent their research experiences clearly. Some students majoring in Psychology have used this in the past to fulfill Core Goal 6, however this department has many other PSYC classes that fulfill Core Goal 6. Department of Speech Language Hearing has used this program as a less rigorous Honors options, and we can help them structure a replacement program if needed.

On faculty: None. The certificate is housed in Academic Success and the courses and experiences needed for the certificate are housed in CLAS and the professional schools. Faculty in those academic units will continue to offer the courses and experiences aided by the mini-grant program mentioned above.

On staff: No staff will be let go as a result of this action. Staff will be redirected to coordinate and support the mini-grant program promoting the inclusion and enhancement of undergraduate research completed in a growing number of courses.

On mission: None.

Signature and Sequence of Review:

VP for Academic Success:  Date: 02-11-2021

Provost/EVC:  Date: 02-18-2021