

A COLLEGE TIMELINE FOR STEM RESEARCH

SUMMER

Summer Research Experience

- Who:** Undergraduates
- Why:** Participate in an in-depth research program
- When:** Summer, 8-10 weeks
- Where:** US and international institutions!
- How:** Apply through **NSF, Amgen, The Leadership Alliance**, or individual institutions!



AMGEN®



Are you an undergraduate interested in pursuing research as a profession? Then this timeline is for you to make the most out of your time in college!

1ST YEAR

Academics first!

- Research experience will not make up for poor grades
- Research takes time (often 10-15 hours/week), make sure you can commit

Identify and initiate research



Search faculty on dept websites.



Go to office hours.



Cold-email faculty.



Think about what research excites you.

Make a CV/Resumé

Use it to apply for internships, jobs, grad schools or requesting letter of recommendations.

Name	email, phone, address
Education	
Related experience and skills	
Significant accomplishments.	

2ND YEAR

Pursue research talks and grants...

- On campus?
- Relevant conferences?
- External funding?
- Do your research and ask faculty or TA's!

Request for *strong* Letters of Rec

- 1 Who do you want to ask and why?
- 2 Don't be afraid to ask
- 3 Ask early (6-8 weeks before deadline)
- 4 Ask for a *strong* letter
- 5 Send reminder emails (1 month, 1 week, & 1 day before deadline)
- 6 Thank your letter writers!



SUMMER

Keep conducting research!

Re-evaluate your research interests, it's fine to stay in your lab or change labs!



Apply for a PhD

- ✓ Compile list of 8-10 programs
- ✓ Ask for letters of rec typically 2-3 letters
- ✓ Take the GRE
- ✓ Apply for the NSF GRFP \$34,000 annual stipend, due mid-October
- ✓ Send in your applications typically due Dec-Jan
- ✓ Interview preparation!



4TH YEAR

1. Complete grad school and fellowship applications
2. Consider taking gap years, jobs in industry, research assistant jobs.



Celebrate and Relax!

