Undergraduate Research Internship Database
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Introduction
UC Davis provides excellent resources and opportunities for undergraduates to acquire the skills that are vital to success as a researcher. The Undergraduate Research Center helps students find appropriate research opportunities in many disciplines. However, many undergraduate students independently volunteer in research projects and their efforts go undocumented. The graduate students and postdocs are usually assigned as supervisors for undergraduate student training efforts in different groups or labs. Unfortunately, the university does not have the means to record their service and acknowledge their efforts in this important university mission. The purpose of this project is to work towards development of centralized database to gather information from Principal Investigators (PIs), Direct Supervisors, and Undergraduate Students involved in undergraduate research training on campus.

Objectives
Provide UC Davis with quarterly real-time information regarding the undergraduate research resources on campus and assess their effectiveness in getting students to graduate schools and making them competitive in the job market.

Help UC Davis strive and ensure that the diverse student population are having equal opportunities to acquire research training.

Encourage graduate students and postdocs to mentor undergraduates in research.

Encourage undergraduate students to acquire research experience.

Acknowledge everyone’s efforts.

Four-way-benefit of this database

The proposed database layout and content

Current status
• The idea has been approved at the conceptual level.

• I created a pilot of the proposed database using the Qualtrics software.

• I am running the pilot in the Department of Plant Biology

Future directions
• Analyse the data of the pilot database.

• Assess its usefulness.

• Persuade UC Davis to allocate the budget to create a user friendly and centralized database that reaches all departments

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Project Title: "Undergraduate Research Internship Database."

Project Summary:
UC Davis provides excellent resources and opportunities for undergraduate students to acquire the skills that are vital to success as a researcher. The Undergraduate Research Center helps students find appropriate research opportunities in many disciplines, however, many undergraduate students independently volunteer in research projects and their efforts go undocumented. The graduate students and postdocs are usually assigned as supervisors for undergraduate student training efforts in different groups or labs. Unfortunately, the university does not have the means to record their service and acknowledge their efforts in this important university mission. The purpose of this project is to work towards development of a centralized database to gather information from Principal Investigators (PIs), Direct Supervisors, and Undergraduate Students involved in undergraduate research training on campus.

The Anticipated benefits of the Proposed Database

For Undergraduates: Your volunteer, paid, and unit-based research experiences will be securely stored in this database every quarter. Anytime, you will be able to log in to your account and print out a formal university document with information about your research training efforts on campus and skills acquired. This would be very beneficial as part of your application package to graduate schools or jobs.

For Direct Supervisors: Graduate Students and Postdocs are usually assigned as direct supervisors for undergraduate student training efforts in different groups or labs. Unfortunately, the university does not have record of your service and your efforts in this important university mission are not acknowledged. Similar to Undergraduate Students, you will be able to log in to your account and print out a formal university document with information about your efforts in mentoring undergraduate in research. This would be used in your application package to academic and non-academic positions.

For Principal Investigators: The information entered in this database will help you with writing recommendation letters for both the mentors and mentees and will acknowledge your group's efforts in training undergraduate students in research.

For UC Davis Administration: The database will provide quarterly real time information regarding the undergraduate research resources on campus and assess their effectiveness in getting students to graduate schools and making them competitive in the job market. Moreover, it would help UC Davis strive and ensure that the diverse student populations are having equal opportunities to acquire research training.

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