

ANY PERSON  
... ANY INQUIRY

# Undergraduate Research



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**Research, creative experiences, and service learning are hallmarks of a Cornell undergraduate education.**

Whether it's mechanical engineering or music, sociology or plant biology, undergraduate research is as diverse as our many fields of study. Our undergraduate students can engage in research with faculty members in all disciplines. Opportunities vary from one-on-one independent research to working with a team that includes graduate students, postdoctoral associates, research associates, and professors. Research takes place in the lab, in the field, and in the library.

**If you have a research question, you can begin to find the answers at Cornell.**

## What are the benefits of undergraduate research?

Undergraduates who conduct research:

- Work closely with a faculty mentor
- Learn by doing
- Increase confidence in scholarly abilities
- Develop teamwork and collaboration skills
- Build a portfolio of research experiences
- Gain respect in their chosen fields of study
- Create a network for academic endeavors

## Contact Information

Undergraduate Research website:  
[www.research.cornell.edu/undergrad](http://www.research.cornell.edu/undergrad)

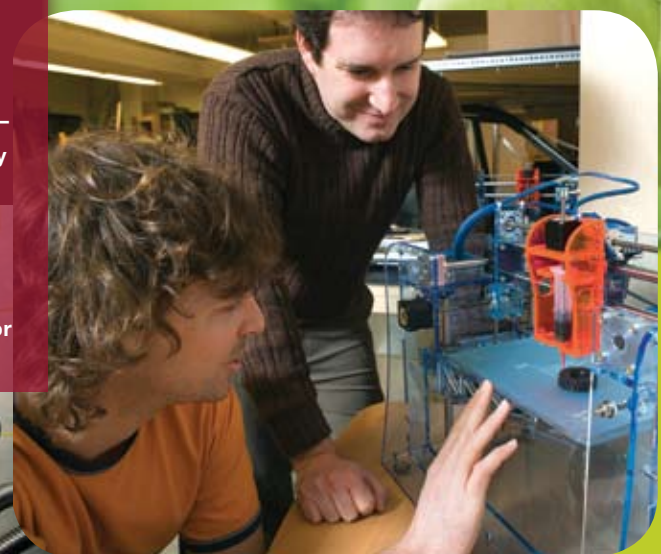
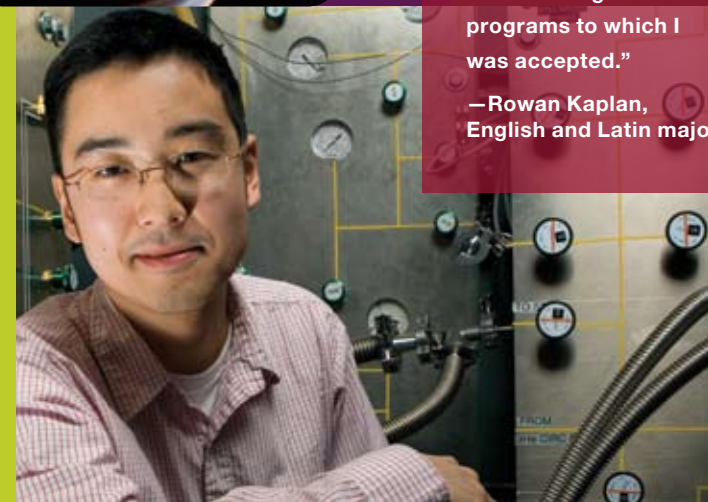
College-based programs and advisors:  
[www.research.cornell.edu/undergrad/CURA.html](http://www.research.cornell.edu/undergrad/CURA.html)

Student organizations: [www.research.cornell.edu/undergrad/Student\\_Orgs.html](http://www.research.cornell.edu/undergrad/Student_Orgs.html)



"Undergraduate research is what got me into my first-choice graduate school. The research I've done set me above and apart from other applicants—this was pointed out by each of the graduate programs to which I was accepted."

—Rowan Kaplan,  
English and Latin major





# What programs are offered?

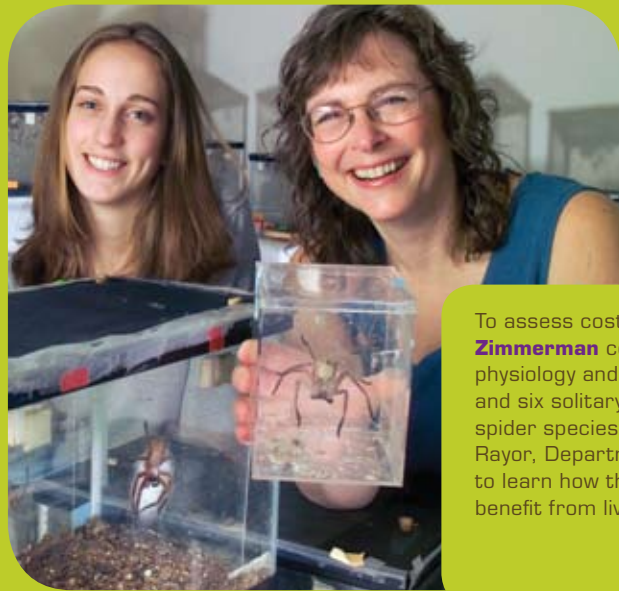
Cornell is an academically diverse university and one of the world's premier research institutions. It includes seven undergraduate colleges and seven graduate and professional schools. The university embodies founder Ezra Cornell's vision of "an institution where any person can find instruction in any study."

Undergraduate research programs include:

- college-based research programs
- summer Research Experiences for Undergraduates
- Cornell Hughes Scholar Program
- Rawlings Cornell Presidential Research Scholars Program

Additional opportunities are provided through student-initiated organizations:

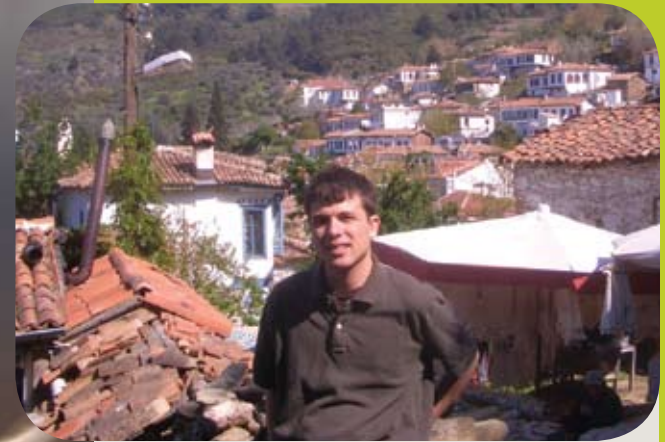
- Cornell Undergraduate Research Board
- college-based student clubs
- publications such as *The Research Paper* and *The Triple Helix*



To assess costs of group living, **Ariel Zimmerman** compares the metabolic physiology and growth of one social and six solitary Australian huntsman spider species. She works with Linda Rayor, Department of Entomology, to learn how the social spiders benefit from living in groups.



**Kevin Ringelman**, a Cornell Hughes Scholar, works with David Winkler, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, to determine why tree swallows line their nests with feathers. He designed an experiment that imposed a resource stress on the birds and then studied behavioral changes.



**Alan Benson** works on corporate codes of conduct with Lance Compa, Department of Collective Bargaining, Law, and History, and on diffusion of organizational innovation with William Sonnenstuhl, Department of Organizational Behavior. Alan, a Rawlings Cornell Presidential Research Scholar, presented his research at a conference in Izmir, Turkey.



Rawlings Cornell Presidential Research Scholar **Ethan Hawkes** is interested in sustainable tourism. He has worked in both Jamaica and Lebanon under the guidance of Rob Kwortnik, School of Hotel Administration. His research explores the dynamic relationship between tourism and peace.



Tanner Dean's Scholar and English major **David Brendan Lavender** studies the tension between the decadent movement in art and literature and contemporary psychoanalytic thinkers, specifically with respect to their conceptions of happiness and sensuousness.



**Jamie Mullally**, a Rawlings Cornell Presidential Research Scholar, works with Margaret Frey, Department of Fiber Science and Apparel Design, to develop a fabric-based biohazard sensor. She received a National Science Foundation Fellowship for summer research at the Roswell Park Cancer Institute.



Undergraduate researcher **Elizabeth Davies** works with Charles Williamson, Sibley School of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, to understand vortex formation and how forces around a rotating cylinder allow for better control and energy extraction.

"I have worked with more than 150 students in my labs. The chance to be around so many young people with enthusiasm is one of the most wonderful aspects of being at Cornell."

— Charles Williamson, professor, Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering

