



Political Science and International Relations majors are strongly encouraged to engage in undergraduate student research, and to take advantage of the opportunities to secure funding and to present their research. Faculty are available to work with students through independent research courses to help develop research skills and projects. Students might also consider presenting research done as part of an upper-division course.

The Department currently offers students **two independent research options for credit:**

PS 4950: Community-Based Research Practicum (1-6 credit hours). In this class, students work with a community-based organization on a practical research project designed in part by the organization.

PS 4970 Undergraduate Research (1-6 credit hours). Students pursue their own topics and fields of concentration under the supervision of a political science faculty member. Working with the faculty member, the student will design and conduct independent research, with the final paper presented at a conference or a public forum on campus.

Opportunities at MTSU to Present Research

Scholars Week

Scholars week includes departmental / college events in discipline-specific venues for presentation of graduate, undergraduate, and faculty scholarship, such as:

- Oral Presentations
- Multimedia presentations
- Posters
- Performances
- Kick-off Luncheon
- Demonstrations
- Speakers

POLITICAL SCIENCE and INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS MAJORS:

There are a lot of resources and opportunities on campus that most students never hear or take advantage of.

For anyone who thinks they might go to graduate school—in any field—being involved in undergraduate research is extraordinarily valuable. It is very helpful in the application process, showing schools that you are interested in research and the types of activities expected of graduate students. And, once in grad school, it gives you a leg up, since you will have already been around the block once or twice and will be comfortable and know what you are doing.

If you are not planning on graduate school, undergraduate research allows you to pursue an issue you care about personally, and shows potential employers that you can successfully work independently.

Some of the opportunities mentioned on the handout provide credits, some provide financial support, and some provide public recognition and awards. Look through the links and see what is available.

If you have questions about PS 4950 or PS 4970 or any of the University services and programs, you can talk to me or any faculty member in the Department.

Stephen D. Morris
Chair

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- University-Wide Exposition

For more information, visit: http://www.mtsu.edu/research/scholars_week.shtml

Social Science Symposium. Conducted annually in the fall, the Social Science Symposium features student research at MTSU. The event includes a student paper competition and guest speakers. For more information visit <http://www.mtsu.edu/soc/socsymp/index.shtml>

Scientia et Humanitas: A Journal of Student Research.

Scientia et Humanitas publishes original undergraduate and graduate research from the natural and social sciences and from the humanities. Articles are now being accepted for the 2011-12 issue from MTSU students and recent graduates either by themselves or in conjunction with a faculty mentor. Articles may be submitted through the online submission system at their website, www.mtsu.edu/~scientia.

MTSU's Undergraduate Research Center is an umbrella organization at MTSU, created in 2004 to promote research at the undergraduate level to students, faculty, administrators, and legislators, and to provide university support for undergraduate students and the faculty members who mentor them in scholarly and creative activities. Their web site contains information on grants, <http://www.mtsu.edu/urc/index.shtml>