Fall and Spring Undergraduate Research Festivals

FURF and SURF – Event Information

What are FURF/SURF?

- FURF and SURF are bi-annual, low-stress platforms for undergraduate students to practice communicating their research, scholarly, and/or creative work to a broad audience.

- All undergraduate researchers are encouraged to participate. Registration to present at FURF and SURF is required, but there is no application/selection process.

What happens at FURF/SURF?

- Registered students present their research using a visual aid, usually a research poster, though other mediums are acceptable.

- Participants stand with their visual aids for one hour (4:30-5:30 or 5:30-6:30), giving brief explanations of their work and answering questions from passing faculty, staff, students, and community members.

- Students may be judged or receive feedback on their posters, depending on their preference. Awards are given to the top presenters.

Who can present at these festivals?

- ANY undergraduate student who is involved in research, scholarly, or creative work.

- Work may be done independently (as for a senior thesis, independent study project, or research practicum class) OR with a faculty mentor.

- Projects do not need to be “completed” at the time of the presentation. Research and discovery are never fully finished, so work in progress is welcome.

Why should I present at these festivals?

- Many students use FURF and SURF as platforms for presentation practice in preparation for conferences or professional development events. As the audience is broad, this is a good venue to practice speaking effectively and articulately about research.

- While students have the option of being judged and receiving feedback, FURF and SURF are relatively laid-back, low-stress environments for presentations.

- Presenting at events like FURF/SURF, and winning an award, looks good on a CV or resume.

*FURF/SURF are co-hosted by ICRU, the UI Honors Program, the Office for the Vice President of Research and Economic Development, and the UI Provost’s office.