

Supporting Undergraduate Research at the Interface of Biology and Mathematics

A group discussion led by
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Identifying existing models for interdisciplinary undergraduate research

- One student with two mentors (one from each discipline)
- A faculty member from one discipline mentoring a student from another discipline
- Teams of students working on a single project; students are from different disciplines
- Sequential model – student does successive projects with different mentors in different disciplines

Examining existing models – Are they a good match for your institution?

- Advantages/disadvantages of each model –
 - student impact
 - faculty perspective
 - institutional perspective
- What do we need to do differently for an interdisciplinary research program to succeed?

Identifying challenges:

- Convincing research intensive faculty that there is value in having undergraduates working in their lab on an independent research project
- Identifying resources to fund undergraduate research during the summer and academic year
- Developing an application procedure to identify quality students and match them with an appropriate investigator