



Rawls Undergraduate Research Program Description

Undergraduate research is one of the keys to growing Rawls College as a leading, research-based business school, and its success depends on the support of our world-class faculty. Developing the research skills of undergraduate students by partnering them with Rawls research-active faculty members supports one of the most important aspects of Texas Tech's mission to advance knowledge through impactful research. During the Rawls Undergraduate Research Program (RURP), Rawls Faculty mentors take on the responsibility of teaching students important research skills while faculty members benefit from the student's fresh insight and inquiry into their areas of study. The RURP is co-sponsored by Rawls College of Business and the Center for Transformative Undergraduate Experiences (TrUE), Texas Tech University.

Undergraduate Mentees Call for Applications

Prospective mentees **must be full-time Rawls College undergraduate students**. The program is intended to last **9 months, from September 2026 until May 2027**. Mentees must remain engaged in guided research activities including, but not limited to, coding, transcription, focus group and survey development, data visualization, and data analysis. The assigned research activities should support scholarly or creative projects, a pilot project, a specific part of a larger project, or be designed to provide preliminary data for future research.

For the 2026-2027 cycle, the Rawls College of Business seeks to recruit a cohort of **mentees who will commit to the following duties**:

- Dedicate at least 3-4 hours per week to work on their project during the fall and spring semesters.
- Meet with assigned research mentor at least once per week.
- Present their research at the spring [TTU Undergraduate Research Conference](#), including a poster presentation. The Rawls College of Business will cover the cost of the poster printing.
- Submit a 10-page final project report with the following elements:



RESEARCH

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Rawls College of Business

Section (with recommended heading)	Target length*	Key content
0. Title Page	— (not counted)	• Descriptive title • Student name & major • Faculty mentor & department • Program name & academic year
1. Abstract	½ page (≈150–200 words)	Concise overview of purpose, methods/data, main finding(s), and significance to the mentor’s broader project
2. Introduction & Mentor’s Project Objectives	1 page	• Broad problem context • Overall objectives of the faculty mentor’s larger research project • Specific research gap addressed
3. Focused Literature Review	1½ pages	• Synthesis of 6–10 key sources • How prior work motivates the mentor’s objectives and the mentee’s assigned task
4. Mentee’s Assigned Task & Contribution	1 page	• Clear description of the task(s) the mentee completed (e.g., data collection, coding, pilot analysis) • Explicit link to which part of the mentor’s project each task supports and why it matters
5. Methodology / Process	1–1¼ pages	• Design, data sources, tools, or protocols the mentee used • Any ethical approvals • Quality-control or troubleshooting steps
6. Results / Outputs	1–1¼ pages	• Tables/figures of key data or prototypes • Short narrative highlighting what was achieved (may be preliminary)
7. Discussion & Next Steps	1 page	• How the results advance the larger project • Limitations • Recommendations for subsequent semesters or future researchers
8. Mentee Self-Reflection on Learning	1 page	• Three to five short reflective paragraphs on (bullet format acceptable): new skills gained, challenges overcome, insights about the research process, impact on career goals
9. Conclusion	½ page	• Two-sentence project take-away • Two-sentence personal take-away
10. References	≈1 page†	• All works cited, consistent style (APA, Chicago, etc.)
11. Optional Appendices	—	Instruments, extended data tables, code snippets, IRB letter, etc. (not counted if program allows)

- The mentee must also attend at least one research skill-building workshop each semester. Qualifying workshops such as the Responsible Conduct of Research and Scholarship training, Endnote, R, SPSS, research methodology, coding languages, data management, and data visualization are typically offered through [TTU Library Services](#). If mentee will work with a study involving human subjects, one of the workshops can be substituted with the mandatory online TTU Human Research Protection Program CITI [Training](#) at the Basic Level.

What Success Looks Like in RURP

A successful RURP mentee demonstrates consistent engagement, intellectual curiosity, and a willingness to learn through hands-on research. By the end of the program, mentees should have meaningfully contributed to a faculty-led research project, developed foundational research skills (e.g., literature review, data handling, or analysis), and produced a clear and well-structured final report. Strong outcomes may also include presenting at the TTU Undergraduate Research Conference and contributing to ongoing research that may lead to future conference presentations or publications.

Completion of the RURP

Each mentee completing the program in both the fall and spring semesters (September 2026 to May 2027) **will receive a Pass/Fail grade**. A Pass grade will allow the mentee to receive a Business Research Micro-credential.

A mentee also has the option of converting this RURP experience into a 3-credit business class to satisfy their degree requirements, per [O.P. 30.10](#) “Conversion of Alternative Non-credit Activity to Semester Credit Hours.” Mentees need to notify RURP program manager Laura Bilbao by email at laura.bilbao@ttu.edu by December 31, 2026 of their intentions. If choosing this option, mentees will be responsible for the tuition associated with the registration of said class. Currently, the class identified for this purpose is BA 4381: Individual Problems in Business Administration.

In addition, the **top three performing mentees** will receive the following awards:

- 1st Prize: \$5,000 for the mentee plus a plaque titled “Rawls Undergraduate Research Award” to commemorate and celebrate the efforts of the student in developing their research skills.
- 2nd & 3rd Prizes: \$2,500 for each undergraduate mentee awardee as honorable mentions.

To apply to become a mentee, fill out the [application form here](#). The application window will end on **May 31st, 2026**.