

Pilot: Research & Scholarly-Designated Course Attribute

1. Definition of Research & Scholarly-Designated Courses

The attribute defining courses as Research & Scholarly-Designated (RSD) highlight courses in which undergraduate students actively engage in elements of the research process through projects and assignments. "Research," as articulated by the Council of Undergraduate Research (CUR), is an inquiry or investigation conducted by an undergraduate student that makes an original intellectual or creative contribution to the discipline or practice.

2. Reason and Value

Research & Scholarly-Designated courses provide all students opportunities to engage deeply in elements of the research process by providing a forum in which students can work closely under the guidance and mentorship of their professors. These courses will provide students with a tangible deliverable that can be built upon as they continue pursuing their research interests or can be presented in oral and / or written form. The designation will serve as a visible flag to employers and graduate schools that the student has engaged in research design, management, and execution. The attribute will identify student performance and professionalization, which compliments the FGCU Badges initiative, a skill badging and micro-credential initiative that fosters and recognizes student performance and professionalization. Most importantly, Research & Scholarly Designated Courses will result in more inclusive opportunities by ensuring that more students benefit from the type of scholarly experiences historically limited to the few individuals that worked with an individual faculty mentor. This designation will thus help guide the development of more opportunities for a greater diversity of students. For faculty, Research & Scholarly-Designated courses serve as a natural extension of QEP courses already being taught and offers opportunities for faculty to mentor students on their research projects in their continued professionalization. In addition, the designation demonstrates participating faculty member's commitment to innovative teaching, including active-learning and student-centered strategies. There are many faculty who support these experiences already. The RSD will help us credit both the faculty and students. Furthermore, the BOG has asked for more detailed reporting of undergraduate scholarship and of courses which engage students in high-impact experiences ([FL BOG 2020 Accountability Plan](#)). Research & Scholarly-Designated course attributes will facilitate those efforts to supply more accurate tracking of students who engage in such efforts.

3. Elements Comprising a Research & Scholarly-Designated Course Attribute

The research process includes the following elements:

1. *Inquiry*. Formulate a question, recognize a problem, or develop a purpose that the scholarship will address.
2. *Literature Review*. Develop an understanding or appreciate the history of a problem, question, or purpose; uncover others that have identified or addressed the problem, question, or purpose in the past, and understand their findings.
3. *Creation*. Develop a plan, proposal, or design to answer the question, solve the problem, or accomplish the purpose; establish a methodology, technique, or approach.
4. *Implementation*. Produce the creative piece / conduct the study or analysis / undertake experiment or investigation. This includes a two-step process of collection of materials or data followed by analysis or creation.

5. *Presentation.* Communicate the scholarship in writing or through oral presentation; perform or exhibit the creative piece.
6. *Dissemination and Critique.* Subject the presentation, communication, or creative work to outside review and critique.

4. Submission for a Research & Scholarly-Designated Course attribute

Applications for a Research & Scholarly-Designated Course attribute will be submitted to the Office of Undergraduate Scholarship. Applications will include a cover memo, annotated syllabus, and assignment guidelines and/or rubrics. Proposals will be evaluated by the Office of Undergraduate Scholarship Leadership Team, which comprises of faculty representatives from across the campus representing all of the disciplines.