Independent Study (Research for Credit)

Students who are interested in research may begin at any time in their undergraduate career. By participating in research projects under faculty supervision, students develop a set of skills which will prepare them for success in any profession or career--the ability to ask the right questions, to develop strategies for answering them, to think critically, to organize data into a coherent interpretation, and to communicate results effectively orally and in writing.

Investigate the possibilities in your area of interest. Visit the Chemistry Department website [People page](#), click view profile to learn the area of interest and for a link to their research lab website where you can learn more about the type of research conducted in that lab. Contact the researcher(s) to let him/her know you're interested in their research and you would like to "do research for credit" in their lab. Attach an unofficial transcript, a resume and list all the Chemistry, Physics and Mathematics courses you have completed and any research you have done in the past.

You may also contact research faculty in other NYU departments or schools or even other area colleges or universities, such as Langone Medical Center, Mt. Sinai, Cornell NYC as long as the focus of your research will be chemistry related. Be aware that faculty time and lab space is limited and some faculty members may have to limit the number of undergraduate research advisees. Don’t be discouraged if you get turned down, try to have a second and even third choice as a backup.

Once you have found a professor to do research with, pick up an “Application for a Course in Independent Study or Senior Honors” from the Chemistry Department in Silver 1001 or click here. All requests for research with credit must be approved by the Director of Undergraduate Studies (DUS), Alexej Jerschow. Fill out the applications form and have your Supervising Professor (PI) sign it. Include the number of credits (points) that you wish to earn. Independent Study (CHEM-UA 995 and 996) or Senior Honors (CHEM-UA 997 and 998) require 2 – 4 credits per term. **The time per week to be spent on research is determined by the Supervising Professor but must be a minimum of 5 hours per week for each credit earned.** Independent study does not count toward an advanced chemistry elective. Students turn in a 7 page paper at the end of the term and receive a grade for the course.

Return the completed form to the Chemistry Department at registration or by the start of classes at the latest. Requests for research with credit will be submitted to the Director of Undergraduate Studies for approval and once approved you will be enrolled in the course by Department administrators.

Depending on their course load, students interested in research may choose to do research for zero credits as arranged with the Supervising Professor. Zero credit research can be conducted during the summer or either academic term. Students should still turn in an application to the Chemistry Department.

Students may also apply for the Dean’s Undergraduate Research Fund (DURF), an endowed Fund, that provides grants to assist a student's own research, whether to help with the gathering
of data and information, or in the presentation of the results at an academic conference. Selection is by a faculty committee is competitive. Awards range from $250 to $1,000. Students apply to the College of Arts and Science; forms and instructions are available online. 

http://www.nyu.edu/cas/DURF/