Dear campus community,

ECU has a strong history of engaging undergraduate students in faculty or graduate-student mentored research across the campus. However, the new normal under COVID necessitates changes. Many faculty researchers have been mentoring student projects that are carried out remotely. However, for some projects, research must be done in a laboratory environment.

A committee of administrators and faculty from across the university have developed guidelines and processes to follow for students to carry out wet laboratory research. Students carrying out undergraduate research in laboratories must be either 1) enrolled in a credit-bearing independent study or similar course or 2) earning funding through an assistantship or hourly wage. Students are encouraged to apply to the UR Mini award program for funding.

The complete guidelines are here https://rede.ecu.edu/covid-wet-lab-practices/. A new or revised research restart smartsheet form will be required by PIs to include undergraduates students in the laboratory.

In addition Brody School of Medicine has issued the following announcement:

- At the present time, the only undergraduates allowed in the building are those who are paid employees on a grant.
- We commonly have undergraduates who conduct research for course credit. Any such students will be assigned papers or data work for at least the first month of the Fall semester. We want to have some time to adjust to the new normal with our own students, faculty, and staff, before opening wider.

I thank all of the Committee members for a quick turnaround on these guidelines and processes. Please let me know if you have questions or concerns.

Regards,
Mary Farwell