

# Collaborative Research Opportunities

Research experience is a graduation requirement for all North Central biology and biochemistry majors. There are two parts to the research requirement:

- Conduct an original, independent research project, and
- Report on the results of your research in our interdisciplinary seminar

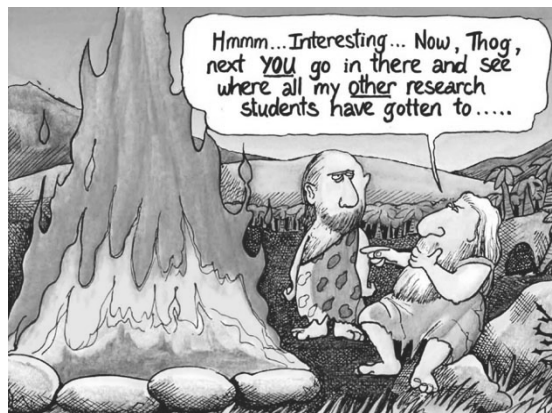
The section on degree requirements (page 5) lists several ways to fulfill the research requirement, including research courses and on- and off-campus research projects.

One of the best ways to meet your research requirement is to get involved in the ongoing “real-world” research programs being conducted by the biology and chemistry faculty members. If you do, you’ll contribute to actual, cutting-edge research, and you may be able to publish your results in a scientific journal or present them at a scientific meeting. You will also develop a relationship with a faculty research mentor who can help you understand how to design, carry out and interpret experiments and will encourage you to become more and more independent in doing so. When it comes time to move on to graduate school or a research job, a letter from a faculty member with whom you have worked closely on a collaborative research project carries a lot of weight.

Most students who want to do collaborative research with a faculty member participate in our summer research program. Summer research lasts eight weeks (concurrent with summer term), and most advisors expect a minimum commitment of 20 hours per week. Most faculty members are happy to work with freshmen and sophomores, so don’t feel that you need extensive experience in order to apply—the point is to *gain* experience! Most summer students are supported by small stipends made available by the College. Grants from outside agencies sometimes make larger stipends for full-time research available. Applications for summer research positions are made available during the Winter term.

Collaborative research can also be conducted during the academic year, either on a volunteer basis or for credit as an independent study (BIO 299, 399 or 499).

For more information on the summer research program and on the research interests of each faculty member, see the Research page of the biology Web site: [www.noctrl.edu/biology](http://www.noctrl.edu/biology).



Proto-Professor Algarth Zag, pioneer in fire research.

