

URGO's Relationship to Augsburg's Mission

Educational opportunities based in the liberal arts

Through its Summer Research Program URGO provides students with the opportunity to explore theoretical and practical questions in rich depth. Under the critical mentorship of Augsburg faculty URGO students not only practice the skills and methods of inquiry within their respective disciplines but they also gain familiarity with the questions and research methods in multiple disciplines, coming to understand the increasingly interdisciplinary nature of scholarship. By developing and carrying out independent research projects and sharing findings within the Augsburg community and at regional and national conferences students are inspired to become lifelong learners, growing confident in their ability to be producers as well as consumers of knowledge. In addition, URGO works to improve the oral and written communication skills of students which are central components of a strong liberal arts education.

Shaped by faith and values of the Christian church

By engaging students in conversation about their personal and academic backgrounds URGO attempts to help students further explore and confirm their vocations. URGO encourages students through workshops, invited presentations, and one-to-one advising, to think about post-graduate study in the larger context of vocation rather in the confining context of job training. During summer research roundtable discussions URGO provides an interdisciplinary format for dialogue about issues related to faith and values, particularly when student research topics prompt these discussions (e.g., Martin Luther and Anti-Semitism in the Middle Ages, Klu Klux Klan in 1920s Minneapolis, Role of Spirituality in Social Work, etc.).

Vital Metropolitan Setting

URGO draws upon the resources of the Cities when students utilize the vast library system in support of their research; when students recruit research subjects from the neighborhood or neighborhood agencies; when students study, for example, the gentrification of the Phillips neighborhood or the reading test scores of African American school children or the drop-out rates of Latino students within the Minneapolis Public Schools; when students access the archives of the Minnesota Historical Society or the lineup records of the Hennepin County Police Department; when students attend graduate/professional school day or participate in summer research programs at the University of Minnesota; when students present research findings at the MN State Capitol each year; or when students learn about osteopathic medicine from a local physician.

Intentionally Diverse

URGO supports Augsburg's commitment to diversity by targeting service towards students underrepresented in higher education, particularly low-income and first-generation (LIFG) college students, through the administration of the Academic Fellows Program (created via the Martin Sabo earmark). By the close of the grant 26 LIFG students will have completed a full-time summer or part-time, academic-year research experience; over 100 LIFG students will have accessed one or more of URGO's services. Both the LSAT and GRE Prep courses offered through URGO bring together WEC and

day students from a range of disciplines. Through one-to-one graduate and professional advising appointments, URGO is able to tailor services towards individual needs and affirm individual differences. Formerly, the McNair Scholars Program served a high percentage of students of color (52% non-white). URGO is currently collaborating with the Office of Special Programs on a proposal to bring McNair back to Augsburg, which if successful, would allow URGO to commit additional staff and financial resources to preparing underrepresented students for graduate education. URGO attempts to stay close to its historical roots of being intentional about its service to underrepresented students while inviting participation and opening up services to all Augsburg students.