

Strengthening the Research Culture in the Undergraduate Psychology Program

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What is typical 'day in the life'?

- Research Methods ...emphasis on statistics
- Research Led Teaching...emphasis on content
- Inquiry driven....emphasis on experimental method...the lab report!
- Scientist-Practitioner framework....emphasis on Big **S**....smaller p.....contested epistemology and ontology
- Undergraduate curriculum...a means to an end
- Student experience.... 'outsider perspective'
- Congruence....appears 'research rich' but can be relatively 'research poor'...student's positioned as consumers

What are we trying to achieve: A tale of two paradigms?

- **Co-Curricular strategy** that is compatible with dominant academic research paradigm.....
- **Curricular strategy** that offers an alternative practitioner research paradigm.....

Mutual honouring

A necessary and sufficient strategy

Co-Curricular strategy: Undergraduate Research Culture Project

A series of co-ordinated co-curricular activities that seek to engage undergraduates in the excitement of the academic research process.

What are we trying to achieve?

- Fostering an *accessible* research culture
- Developing a *marketable School culture* and brand as a 'point of distinctiveness'
- Building *understanding* of the academic role
- Fostering *relationships* that can support future collaboration
- Establishing research as an attractive career pathway
- Engaging and mentoring *potential* 'pockets of promise'
- Enhancing *University-Community links*

What are we actually doing?

Escalating stakes

Research Interest Groups

Facilitating undergraduates contact with staff and postgraduates in an area of inquiry

Positioning students as Inquirers

Internship Program

Engaging students as collaborators in the research process

Positioning students as Partners/Collaborators

Undergraduate Student Journal

Publishing (showcasing) quality student scholarship

Positioning students as Producers

Publication Scholarships

Translating student research into the wider scholarly community

Positioning students as Colleagues

What have we learnt?

- P/G student leadership is foundational
- P/G learning, apprenticeship and socialisation
- Staff engagement and self-interest
- Identification between participants
- Mutually-reinforcing diversity across activities
- Consultation and feedback
- Ground rules and guidelines
- Seeding funds and management endorsement
- Managing and celebrating the evidence of success
- Dissemination
- Evolution of the strategy....

Curricular strategy

The Practitioner Stream

A curriculum sequence that functions in parallel to the standard curriculum that seeks to engage undergraduates in the excitement of the practitioner research process.

What are we doing?

Foundations of Professional Practice



Work Integrated learning



Practitioner Research and Evaluation

What are we learning?

- 'Ways of knowing' are contested and competitive
- Future identity drives present engagement
- 'Meaningful contribution' v busy work is a key aspect of the 'value proposition' for students
- Mess is an essential part of life...and core to developing 'hot capability'.

Finally....with hope in our hearts

It is a miracle that curiosity survives
formal education

Albert Einstein