



V. Scholastic Enhancement Program Undergraduate Research Option (SEP/URO) 2007-2008

This was the third year for the SEP Undergraduate Research Option (SEP/URO) living learning community offered to first-year SEP students. This living learning community provides a select number of students the opportunity to live together in a common first-year residence hall. Each student is paired with a faculty sponsor who will engage the student in some aspect of his/her research.

The purpose of the program is to engage first-year students in faculty research early in their academic experience. This, in turn, is intended to increase their participation in other research activities at Miami University. Faculty sponsors were responsible for identifying aspects of their own research that could engage a first-year student researcher. Their role with SEP staff assistance was to guide the student through an inquiry-base learning experience.

Eleven students selected the SEP/URO living learning community as their first-choice residential option for Fall 2007. Of the 11, ten were African Americans and one (1) was American Indian. Going into spring semester, one student did not return to Miami due to grades, financial and personal issues. Spring 2008, there were ten students that continued with SEP/URO with 100% participation in the Undergraduate Research Forum held on April 16.

New this year was the Miami Access Initiative. Of the eleven SEP/URO students, five were Miami Access. We also had our first student-athlete to successfully participate in URO. This has been difficult due to the demanding schedule for student-athletes.

Overall first-year performance was much lower than the previous years. See chart below:

