

OMSA Research Checklist and FAQ

Ochsner MD Phase 2 Students

Step 1: Confirm that you are in good academic standing and can participate in research: https://is.gd/UQ_student_research _____

Step 2: Register with Ochsner's IRB by making an account: [eIRB link](#) _____

Step 3: Register with CITI program ([CITI Training Instructions](#)) and complete the Basic Course training: <http://citiprogram.org/> _____

Step 4: Find a mentor and project by talking to student interest groups, attendings and residents on your rotations, department heads, other students etc. _____

Step 5: Before beginning your project, register your research: [Register Research Project](#) _____

Step 6: Report your achievements to earn Society Cup points and get a research letter for your ERAS: [Report Research Achievements](#) _____

Step 7: Update your CV/resume with your research start date, abstracts, posters, and publications: [Ochsner CV Template](#) _____

Frequently Asked Questions:

What is an IRB?

- IRB stands for Institutional Review Board. This is a panel of people from academia and the community who come together to approve research and make sure it is performed in an ethical way.

Why is CITI training so long?

- Ethics training is important to all areas of research!
- Additionally, be aware that the time you spend on each page of CITI training is recorded and you may be flagged if you speed through it.

What should I do if I can't find a mentor or project through the ways mentioned above, or want something in a specific specialty?

- Reach out to Dr. Courtney Parke, the Director of Student Research at Ochsner, at courtney.parke@ochsner.org.

Can I do research outside of Ochsner, such as continuing a project I previously worked on at my alma mater?

- Yes, you can do research outside of Ochsner; however, you must still be approved to do extracurricular research by registering here: https://is.gd/UQ_student_research
- You must be in good academic standing even if you decide to do research outside of Ochsner.
- Your MD coursework must remain your priority, as with all extracurricular research.

Can I do wet lab/bench research?

- You may do wet lab/bench research, but keep in mind that this type of research often takes longer to produce meaningful results than clinical research, even for those with previous experience.

What is the purpose of the research letter from the Dean?

- This letter acknowledges that you have performed research in addition to your studies at Ochsner.
- With USMLE Step 1 transitioning to pass/fail, this will be a useful addition to your residency applications and an opportunity to distinguish yourself.

Why should I update my CV/resume now?

- It is much easier to update as you go instead of trying to sift through your emails to recall when you began research, which conferences you attended, where you published etc. when ERAS opens.

More questions, comments, concerns? Please reach out to:

Aachal Gunda – OMSA Phase 2 Research Officer, v-aagunda@ochsner.org

Parsha Alan – OMSA Phase 1 Research Officer, p.alan@student.uq.edu.au

Courtney Parke, PhD – Director of Student Research at Ochsner,

courtney.parke@ochsner.org