



DO with Research Distinction Requirements

Requirements for Research Distinction designation:

- Students must have a VCOM faculty mentor.
 - Reach out to your Campus Associate Dean for Biomedical Affairs and Research for specific research and mentor suggestions.
- Students are required to assemble a committee which will need to meet at the beginning and end of the program.
 - Committees must include the faculty mentor and the Associate Dean for Biomedical Affairs and Research at the student's respective campus or Dr. Broinson or Dr. Garner.
 - The initial committee meeting will take place after you have produced your research topic title, hypothesis, and brief abstract/approach with your mentor
- Students must complete the Conducting Research SDL modules and complete required VCOM CITI training. Students must also complete any other project-specific required training.
 - Kayla Afkinich will send you links to the SDLs and CITI training instructions.
- Students must work with mentors to obtain IRB or IACUC approval depending upon project scope.
- Research proposal written with mentor must be submitted, reviewed and approved by their oversight committee.
- Present at Research Day at any campus or other similar local, regional, or national meeting.
- A peer-reviewed publication submission (or mini paper-modeled thesis).
 - The student is expected to pursue the manuscript to final acceptance and publication with all due effort (publication may actually occur after graduation in some cases).
- Begin any time after completion of Block 2, preferably before first summer break and use the break(s) for full time research activities. May also begin in 3rd or 4th year for clinical rotation-related research.
- Students must remain in good academic standing for the duration of their research.
- The student must present his or her research on an individual basis to his/her committee.
- All requirements will need to be completed by February of your final year to receive your certificate at graduation.

The VCOM Research Division is here to help enable and facilitate your DO with Research Distinction experience:

- Helping students match to research mentors.
- Providing input by experienced researchers, including lectures and advice on conducting research, collaboration, publication ethics, paper writing.
- Monitoring progress of student/mentor team.

Contact Kayla Afkinich for instructions on how to get started:

- Kayla Afkinich, (864) 327-9844 / kafkinich@carolinas.vcom.edu
- Auburn Campus: Dr. Kenny Brock, (334) 442-4001 / kbrock@auburn.vcom.edu
- Carolinas Campus: Dr. Harold Garner, (214) 924-8364 / sgarner@vcom.edu
- Louisiana Campus: Dr. Pawel Michalak, (817) 673-2353 / pmichalak@vcom.edu
- Virginia Campus: Dr. Jim Mahaney, (540) 231-5280 / jmahaney@vt.vcom.edu