Cutting-edge research at a world-class facility

The Oak Ridge National Laboratory has been at the forefront of scientific research for decades, especially in energy-related areas.

A list of research areas at ORNL is at www.ornl.gov. For examples of student research at the Laboratory, go to www.denison.edu/collaborations/oakridge/.

Some highlights of the research areas at ORNL:

**Biology**  The emphasis is on the genetic, cytological, biochemical, biophysical, pathological, and physiological effects of radiation.

**Chemistry**  In nuclear chemistry, most work is aimed at understanding nuclear properties in terms of current theoretical models. The emphasis in inorganic chemistry is on the actinides. Organic chemistry studies are devoted to reaction mechanisms and isotope effects.

**Physics**  ORNL’s basic research programs in physics include fission and reactor physics, high energy physics, nuclear physics, solid state physics, engineering physics, and plasmas. Two of the most advanced neutron scattering scientific research facilities in the world are at ORNL: the High Flux Isotope Reactor (HFIR) and the Spallation Neutron Source (SNS), which draw scientists from around the globe to conduct basic research.

**Interdisciplinary studies**  Current research programs include studies in geology, materials science, health physics, biochemical and biophysics activities, energy use and development studies, and the environmental sciences.

**Social sciences**  Such diverse activities as electrical generator sittings, environmental impact statements, urban development programs, attitudinal surveys, and energy resource supply-and-demand analyses take place in the Energy Division.

Oak Ridge Science Semester

The Oak Ridge Science Semester is managed by Denison University and recognized by the member colleges of the Great Lakes Colleges Association (GLCA) and the Associated Colleges of the Midwest (ACM).

**For more information contact:**

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Students from ACM colleges may also contact the ACM office at the address below.

**Staff**

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Julie Malicoat, Program Manager, Oak Ridge Institute for Science Education.
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**Resident Faculty**  Each year one or two faculty members from GLCA and/or ACM colleges are selected to serve as Resident Faculty for the program.

For students with interests in:

- Biology & Biochemistry
- Chemistry & Nuclear Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Energy Use & Development
- Environmental Sciences
- Geology & Materials Science
- Health Physics
- Physics & Biophysics
- Robotics

acm.edu/oakridge

Printed on recycled paper
The Oak Ridge Science Semester is an exceptional opportunity for undergraduates to conduct research and work alongside career scientists at a premier facility, the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL). Students often find that this is the most demanding and rewarding experience of their college careers.

- Each student joins an ongoing research project at ORNL in an area related to the student’s interests.
- A scientist from the ORNL staff serves as the student’s mentor and provides guidance throughout the semester.
- Research is the core of the program, as students are expected to devote at least 35 hours per week to the project.
- Participants are members of the research team and are expected to contribute significantly to the design and methodological approach of their research activity.
- Students use the sophisticated resources available at the Laboratory, including supercomputers and state-of-the-art electron microscopes, lasers, and analytical instruments such as a Fourier Transform Mass Spectrometer and a scanning tunneling microscope.
- The academic program is enriched in informal ways by guest speakers, department colloquia, and the special interests and expertise of the ORNL staff.

Credit and grades
Recommended credit is 12-16 semester credits or the equivalent. Students should consult the campus program advisor or off-campus studies officer for their college’s credit and grading policies for this program. The amount and distribution of credit should be determined in advance.

Courses

Interdisciplinary seminar  An introduction to ORNL and its research programs. The seminar also serves as a forum for students to present their own research data for discussion and comment. (required, 4 semester credits)

Advanced course  Students choose among a few select courses taught by the resident GLCA/ACM faculty or by ORNL staff scientists. Students may opt to take a class at a local college or university. Students may also arrange with their home campus faculty for an independent study. (optional, 4 semester credits)

Research  Research on a specific project under the guidance of an ORNL staff scientist. (required, 8 semester credits)

What past participants say ...

“It was amazing to be doing what I was doing. It was really cool to have that experience. I really feel like I learned something!”  
— Earlham College student

“First and foremost, I learned a lot — I wasn’t just applying knowledge from years of classes, I was gaining exposure to new techniques and cutting edge technologies. Second, I established relationships and contacts with many incredible people.”  
— St. Olaf College student

“It was a very valuable experience to slowly feel out the full extent to which I could contribute. I really enjoyed working with the people.”  
— Albion College student

“My mentors were of immense help during this program. They both were always available to explain essential concepts to me or help me with things not only pertaining to my specific project but also helping me out with graduate school searches and whatnot. I felt that I could always count on their assistance and that was very reassuring during this semester.”  
— Earlham College student