

Dear Colleagues,

A successful virtual CERCA event has demonstrated that even during a global pandemic there can be posters, oral presentations, films, displays, and performances that recognize student scholarly work.

UW-Eau Claire's Power of [AND] suggests that student-faculty collaborative research too may be able to continue this summer with inspired adjustments to ensure that it is done in a safe manner.

Research protocols involving face-to-face contact with human subjects should be postponed until further notice unless the interaction is essential to the health and well-being of the participant. However, options may exist for moving forward with other research, scholarship, and creative activity.

For example, student-faculty collaborative research projects that can be accomplished remotely are encouraged to do so. Perhaps planned research activities might be resequenced so that time can be dedicated to analyzing existing data, writing manuscripts, and developing new grant proposals.

For projects where remote work is not practical, researchers should consult with their department chairs, colleagues, and ORSP to formulate a sensible plan. Questions to consider might include:

- Can activity be scheduled in shifts to limit the number of students in research spaces at a time?
- Are face masks and other necessary personal protective equipment available for the research team?
- Have arrangements been made for the routine cleaning and disinfecting of work environment surfaces, equipment, instruments, tools, keyboards, touchscreens, phones, and desks?
- Has adequate attention been given to curbing gathering in common/highly frequented areas such as conference rooms, break rooms, supply stockrooms, shared printers, and bathrooms?
- Have appropriate travel authorizations been secured from the Vice Chancellor to conduct fieldwork and include defined conditions under which travelers can share vehicles?

Social distancing etiquette keeps us six feet apart but the Blugold spirit binds us together. Through creativity, critical insight, and intellectual courage it may be possible for student-faculty collaborative research at UW-Eau Claire to continue safely [AND] thrive during the COVID-19 crisis.

Stay safe and be well.

Catherine Chan

Executive Director

Office of Research and Sponsored Programs

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EAU CLAIRE

chancw@uwec.edu

715-836-2945

University of Wisconsin
Eau Claire
