

**The Fledge Program**  
**Undergraduate research in the Ouyang Lab**  
**University of Nevada, Reno**

The Fledge program is developed for the laboratory of Dr. Jenny Ouyang for undergraduate research. This info sheet is for students who are interested in research.

**Step 1: interest**

Welcome! Look at Jenny’s website [www.jennyouyang.com](http://www.jennyouyang.com) and see if her research interests you. Her work involves the physiological adaptation of organisms to environmental challenges. She works in the field (Reno farms, cities, parks), in the lab (Sarah Fleischmann aviaries), and with an endocrine wet lab in FA 254. The research opportunities for you are endless, e.g., you can learn anything from animal husbandry to wet lab techniques.

**Step 2: apply**

If you’re interested, please send Jenny a copy of your unofficial transcript, a CV, and a cover letter detailing why you want to work in her lab and your career interests. Although she would love to provide you all with research experience, limited time and space will determine the first round of people she will invite for interviews.

**Step 3: interviews**

Interviews: Jenny and the leader of the undergraduate team (a senior undergrad from the lab) will conduct interviews at the beginning of the semester. We will choose a group of new undergraduates to join us.

**Step 4: select your track**

If you are selected to join the lab, look at the following chart to determine what type of research you want to participate in. Volunteer: flexible hours. Research credit (491): 1-3 credits per semester. Each credit is 3 hours per week in the lab. Honors thesis: variable hours and make sure you talk to Jenny if you want to do a thesis project or an honors thesis project. This timeline is a rough guide and can be tailored to your previous research experience and career goals.



### **Step 5: join**

Once you know what type of research you want to do, you will need to do the following things

- 1) email Jenny your NSHE ID (giving you access to Valley Road facilities, research credits), your cell phone number, and your availabilities Monday-Sunday (7am-noon).
- 2) get access to dropbox (in spring only)
- 3) complete IACUC training: <https://www.unr.edu/lam/required-training>  
only complete the two \* ones on the right
- 4) enroll in defensive driving course (to drive a university vehicle, needed esp for field work):  
[http://events.unr.edu/event/defensive\\_driving\\_training#.WcVD5ciGNnl](http://events.unr.edu/event/defensive_driving_training#.WcVD5ciGNnl)
- 5) enroll in laboratory safety course (needed if you are planning on doing lab work):  
<https://ehslegacy.unr.edu/learning/Events.aspx>

### **Step 6: lab responsibilities**

Research responsibilities are planned with Jenny in advance. In addition to these responsibilities, all students have the following obligations. Please also let Jenny know if you want to be a senior undergrad (the leader rotates every semester) so you can shadow the previous leader.

- 1) Read the rules and lab philosophy (will be sent to you and posted in the lab) carefully before starting in the lab.
- 2) Attend undergraduate lab meetings led by the senior undergrad (once a month and read the assigned paper, prepare to discuss)
- 3) Help with the aviary birds (hours dependent on each student, coordinated by senior undergrad with postdoc help)
- 4) Attend regular lab meetings (mandatory for those of you receiving research credit, optional for volunteers). Regular lab meetings will be held twice a month.
- 5) Attend EECB seminars (these seminars are worth going to but not mandatory). They occur every Thursday from 4-5pm in LLC. A calendar of all the speakers is available online.
- 6) If you are doing a thesis, you will need to write a research proposal for your proposed research (2 pages) before you begin.

### **Benefits of the fledge program:**

If you take full advantage of the fledge program, you will leave the nest as a successful fledgling. All students learn new techniques (bleeding and handling of wild birds, lab techniques) that are useful in a wide range of professions. There is extensive career development including leadership skills (undergraduate leaders in lab groups and research leaders) and letters of recommendation (as Jenny gets to know all of you individually). You gain valuable research experience that will help with whichever field you decide to go into, including scientific reasoning, critical thinking, and data analysis and design. Not to mention, you work with an incredibly dynamic group of students and post-docs, and incredible study organisms in a wide-range of environmental conditions.