

# Surgical Outcomes Research Center (SORCE)

## Undergraduate Practical Research Education Program (U-Prep)

**Contact:**

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Positions available quarterly.  
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The University of Washington (UW) Surgical Outcomes Research Center (SORCE) has ongoing opportunities in its **Undergraduate Practical Research Education Program (U-Prep)**. SORCE U-Prep allows undergraduate students to become involved in ongoing research projects in a dynamic multidisciplinary health services research center affiliated with the Department of Surgery.

SORCE interns are currently involved in 8 projects across SORCE:

- Appendicitis Patient Pre-Hospital Experience (APPE) Survey Project, a multi-site, prospective survey study of patients undergoing appendectomy in both children and adults.
- Comparative Effectiveness Research Translation Network (CERTAIN), a comparative effectiveness research study that examines different types of treatments and their outcomes.
- Longitudinal Assessment of Bariatric Surgery (LABS), a National Institutes of Health (NIH)-funded study conducting coordinated clinical, epidemiological, and behavioral research in the field of bariatric surgery.
- National Surgical Quality Improvement Program (NSQIP), a surgical quality improvement project aimed at improving surgical quality across the nation.
- Program Operations, focusing on centralized office operations & management of education and training programs.
- SORCE Survey Center, a project aimed at capturing and incorporating patient-reported outcomes into outcomes assessments for quality improvement (QI) activities and comparative effectiveness research (CER).
- Surgical Care and Outcomes Assessment Program (SCOAP), a Washington State clinical quality improvement program aimed at improving surgical quality across Washington State.

Interns work with a designated staff mentor to design a training program over the course of the year. Learning objectives drawn from assigned projects and programs are specified in a learning contract each quarter. Focus areas for interns may include learning medical terminology; data management techniques; data quality control strategies; project coordination skills relating to participant recruitment and retention, study visits; techniques of survey design and administration; and general UW project administration tasks. In addition to project-related learning, U-Prep Interns complete two individual secondary research projects and have the opportunity to interact with senior level research staff and faculty members. SORCE Interns are given specific project team assignments and work independently to meet deadlines and goals. Students also have the opportunity to learn transferable administrative skills and have the ability to attend additional training seminars of interest.

**Minimum Requirements:** Must be able to commit to working 6-9 hours/week per quarter (including summer). Must be able to make at least a 1 year commitment to the internship. Must take internship for credit (SURG499) for a minimum of three quarters.