Housed in OSCAR, the Students as Scholars initiative originated from Mason’s Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), a transformative five-year plan to enhance undergraduate student learning and a required component of the institution’s 2011 reaffirmation of accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).

The History of the QEP Students as Scholars and OSCAR

We intentionally use the term “student scholarship” to refer to both undergraduate research and creative activity, in an effort to be inclusive of the wide variety of scholarly work that takes places across the disciplines.

When compared with undergraduate research programs at other universities, Mason’s initiative is unique. Students, faculty, and staff representing a broad range of academic units on campus have been intimately involved throughout the planning, development, and implementation of this initiative to ensure that there is space for every program and department at Mason to participate.
The Goal of the QEP Students as Scholars and OSCAR

We expect, as a result of the *Students as Scholars* initiative, that:

» Student scholarship will be pervasive on campus
» Undergraduate degree programs will offer opportunities for student scholarly inquiry, creative activities, and research
» Faculty will support undergraduate student scholarship
» Students will participate in undergraduate research and creative activities
» Student will have opportunities to communicate the results of their research or creative activities
» Students who have participated in undergraduate scholarship will be better prepared for their career goals and advanced study.

Impact on Undergraduate Student Learning
The *Students as Scholars* initiative is organized to enhance undergraduates’ understanding of what it means to produce and share knowledge through scholarship. During their time at Mason, students may:

» discover how knowledge is generated and how they can participate in scholarship
» engage in the process of scholarly inquiry by articulating a question and situating scholarship within a broader context.
» create an original research or creative project and communicate their findings.

The goals of the *Students as Scholars* initiative are to:

» Enhance the awareness and visibility of scholarship at Mason.
» Increase opportunities for scholarly inquiry.
» Develop the infrastructure to support student scholarship.