R-Suffix Courses in the Department of Kinesiology

A Brief Overview

- **What are R-suffix courses?**
  - The Kinesiology Department offers four R-suffix courses, which are as follows:
    - KINS 4960R: Faculty-Mentored Undergraduate Research I
    - KINS 4970R: Faculty-Mentored Undergraduate Research II
    - KINS 4980R: Faculty-Mentored Undergraduate Research III
    - KINS 4990R: Undergraduate Research Thesis (or Final Project)
  - These courses are part of a progressive research course sequence to promote a student's increasing skill development and depth of inquiry, as well as growing independent research capability. These courses require the close supervision of a faculty member, and in some cases, the student will work collaboratively as part of a research team.

- **Are there any other course options for research?**
  - Undergraduate students have several options in regards to coursework related to their research experience. Most students begin in KINS 3480: Practicum in Kinesiology Research. This course designation is repeatable, and is most appropriate for students who are beginning in a lab, or who are generally assisting with the research of a faculty member.
  - For more seasoned students, or those who have more of an active role in the lab, R-suffix courses are likely more appropriate.

- **How do these R-suffix courses differ from other research course designations?**
  - **Time/Credit Hours:**
    - R-suffix courses can be completed for 3 or 4 credit hours, so the time commitment is generally greater than a KINS 3480 experience (which can be taken for 1-3 credit hours).
    - *Please note that a minimum of 3 hours of work in the lab per week is required for each credit hour sought*
  - **Involvement in the Lab:**
    - In addition to spending more time in the lab, on average, than students pursuing KINS 3480 course credit, students who are enrolled in the R-suffix research courses should expect to work more independently in the lab setting, and may begin to work on self-initiated research projects.
  - **Assessments/Assignments:**
    - While some sort of assessments/assignments may be a part of any research course designation, the assessments/assignments associated with R-suffix courses will be set forth and agreed upon by the faculty mentor and student before the start of the term so that these expectations are clear. Students will then indicate these expectations on their R-suffix course application and will have to submit these agreed-upon assignments to the Department of Kinesiology by the last day of regularly scheduled classes for the term.
  - **Sequential Nature:**
    - As opposed to KINS 3480, which can be repeated for multiple terms (12 credit hours total maximum), the R-suffix courses are intended to be taken only once, and to be taken in sequence.
    - Please note, though, that students do not have to progress in the sequence, and it is not implied that if a faculty member takes a student on for KINS 4960R that they will also serve as a faculty mentor for subsequent R-suffix courses. Students may choose to complete only KINS 4960R.
  - **Honors Credit:**
    - Honors credit is automatically awarded for Honors students who complete CURO research courses under the R-suffix. No additional applications must be submitted to the Honors Program to ensure Honors credit is awarded for these R-suffix research courses. Honors credit is not awarded, though, for completion of KINS 3480.
The Process
*A Step-by-Step Guide*

**For Students:**

1. First, reach out to a faculty member and lab:
   a. Students can see the research interests of each faculty member on their faculty profile page. Follow [this link] to our Department of Kinesiology faculty directory for all profile pages. For those faculty whose research looks particularly interesting, contact them by e-mail and ask if they are interested in having an undergraduate conduct, or assist with conducting, research in the lab. If so, arrange to meet with the faculty member to discuss such possibilities, as well as what course option would be most appropriate, given the opportunity available. It is best to try to line up a meeting in the semester prior to the one in which you want to get started.

2. Once a faculty member has agreed to take you on for a research course, complete the appropriate application:
   a. The application link for KINS 3480 can be found [here](#).
   b. If you wish to pursue KINS 4960R, KINS 4970R or KINS 4980R, please utilize the link here: [KINS 4960R, 4970R, and 4980R Application](#).
      i. Please note that a different application is utilized for students pursuing the KINS 4990R (Final Project/Thesis) course. This PDF application requires signatures from the student and their faculty mentor, as well as a reader and the Program Coordinator.
   c. Applications for KINS 3480, as well as KINS 4960R, 4970R and 4980R should be submitted at least one day before the last day of the Drop/Add period for the semester in which the research will be completed.
   d. Application for KINS 4990R must be submitted by the first day of classes for the semester in which the student plans to register.

3. Once you submit your application, it will be routed to the Department of Kinesiology for approval:
   a. If the faculty mentor works within the department, the application will be routed to that individual to verify that the expectations listed in regards to task(s)/project(s) reflects what has been agreed upon by the student and faculty mentor.
      i. If the faculty mentor approves, the appropriate course will be created, and student will be granted appropriate permission and will be notified via email that they can register.
      ii. If the faculty mentor does not approve, the application will be routed back to the student for appropriate revisions.
   b. If the faculty mentor does not work within the department, the application will be routed to first to the Program Coordinator within the Department of Kinesiology that relates most closely to the research project for initial approval, before moving forward to the faculty member for approval (as outlined above).
      i. If the Program Coordinator does not approve of this research being conducted under the KINS course prefix, they will notify the student and listed faculty mentor via email of this decision.

4. If/when enrolled in the research course, you will then work in the lab, as agreed upon, throughout the term.

5. Finally, if enrolled in an R-suffix course, you will submit your assignment(s) as outlined in your initial application to [kins@uga.edu](mailto:kins@uga.edu) by 5:00 pm on last day of regularly scheduled classes for the term in which you are enrolled.

**For Faculty:**

1. Faculty members should first meet with students interested in being a part of their lab and discern if course credit is appropriate, and if so, which course designation would be best, given the breadth and depth of research conducted.

2. Once course credit is agreed upon and the student submits their corresponding course application, it will be routed to you via email for approval. For R-suffix courses, KINS staff will check to ensure the correct course in sequence has been selected; however, the faculty member should pay close attention to ensure that the assignments and expectations outlined align with what was discussed initially and what will be expected of the student. Please respond to this email to communicate whether the application is approved, or if it should be returned to the student for edits. If the student has not discussed this work with you previously, they will not be allowed entry to the course.

3. If/when the application for the student is approved, the student will be granted POD (course permission) and should enroll in the appropriate course, and then work in the lab throughout the term, as agreed upon initially.

4. Finally, the student will submit their assignment(s) as outlined in their initial application to [kins@uga.edu](mailto:kins@uga.edu) by 5:00 pm on last day of regularly scheduled classes for the term in which they are enrolled. A staff member will do an administrative check to ensure all materials have been received and that they meet outlined requirements; however, these materials will then be forwarded to the faculty member for final evaluation. If materials are not received, that will be communicated by staff to the student and faculty member, as well. The faculty member will then be responsible for assigning and submitting the student’s grade for the course. R-Suffix courses are graded A-F, while KINS 3480 is S/U.