

# UCSB Library Award for Undergraduate Research - Science & Engineering Rubric

## Research Narrative (45%)

Criteria	Excellent (8-10 points)	Competent (5-7 points)	Developing (4 and under)
<b>Research Strategy</b>	Clearly describes the selection of appropriate databases, platforms, or search tools relevant to the discipline. Explains how search parameters (e.g., keywords, Boolean operators, controlled vocab, filters) were intentionally developed and refined. Reflects on how changes to the search strategy improved relevance, scope, or efficiency – demonstrating an iterative and purposeful approach.	Identifies at least one appropriate database or search tool. Describes basic use of keywords or filters, with limited explanation of how or why they were chosen. Shows some awareness that search strategies can be refined.	Mentions searching for information, but does not clearly identify databases, tools, or strategies used. Search parameters are unclear, inappropriate, or not discussed. Little or no reflection on how the search process was developed or improved.
<b>Information Literacy</b>	Demonstrates strong ability to integrate appropriate, high-quality sources to inform the research project; critically reflects on the sources (e.g., relevance, limitations, etc).	Uses generally appropriate sources with some attention to credibility or relevance; demonstrates basic evaluation of information quality.	Relies on limited, inappropriate, or poorly justified sources; little evidence of evaluation credibility, relevance, or limitations.

<p><b>Library Use</b></p>	<p>Clearly describes meaningful use of library resources or tools (e.g., databases, LibGuides, licensed software, data/computing services, consultations); Reflects on how library support improved efficiency, scope, or quality of research.</p>	<p>Uses library resources or tools appropriately, though engagement may be limited in scope or depth; Identifies at least one way library resources support the research process.</p>	<p>Minimal or unclear use of library resources (including only using physical library space); little reflection of how library services relate to the research process.</p>
<p><b>Ethics &amp; Intellectual Attribution</b></p>	<p>Demonstrates clear understanding of ethical issues related to the project (e.g., research integrity, authorship, data stewardship); Describes and reflects upon the use of Gen AI to support project development.</p>	<p>Has some discussion of ethical considerations or intellectual contribution; Discloses the use of Gen AI without providing details.</p>	<p>Limited or missing discussion of ethics or intellectual contribution; no disclosure or description of Gen AI usage.</p>

## Project (25%)

Criteria	Excellent (8-10 points)	Competent (5-7 points)	Developing (4 and under)
<b>Clarity of Presentation</b>	Grammar and punctuation are correct throughout. Coherent and consistent argumentation.	Some argumentation lacks clarity or direction. Grammar and punctuation are correct.	Grammar and punctuation errors. Needs improvement in forming a coherent argument.
<b>Research Methodologies</b>	Research reflects appropriate methodologies.	Research does not reflect an appropriate methodology or methodologies.	No clear methodology applied to research.
<b>Use of Sources</b>	Use of synthesis, direct quotes, and original analysis are well-balanced.	Sources support claims, but integration may rely too heavily on direct quotes rather than analysis.	Claims are unsupported by data; sources lack clear connection to the argument.

## Bibliography (30%)

Criteria	Excellent (8-10 points)	Competent (5-7 points)	Developing (4 and under)
<b>Citation Style &amp; Formatting</b>	Citation style is appropriate to the discipline and is consistently followed.	Citation style is not the most appropriate for the discipline, but it is consistently followed.	A uniform citation style is not followed, citations are formatted inconsistently.
<b>Breadth and Type of Sources</b>	Sources are from a variety of content and format types appropriate to the project, and are reflective of expert library use.	Sources are from a limited range of content or format types, depth of library use is unclear.	Demonstrates little or no evidence of library use.
<b>Source Use</b>	All or most of the sources listed in bibliography are directly cited in the project.	Some of the sources listed are directly cited in the project.	Few or none of the sources are directly cited in the project.