

Establishing a Good Relationship

Goals:

- Get to know one another.
- Begin to define your working relationship and establish expectations.
- Define the goals of your research project.

What are the objectives for the first meeting you have with a new undergraduate mentee?

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Questions *Students* May Ask *Mentors*:

- How/when did you become interested in research?
- What would success look like in this research project to you?
- What skills (training, certifications, course prerequisites, etc.) do I need to do research with you?
- Who are the other people on the research team? What are their responsibilities? How should I interact with them? What are the proper channels of communication?
- How many hours per week do you expect me to work on the research project? Are there any regularly scheduled meetings I need to attend?
- How do you prefer to communicate?

Mentors should...

- Make direct eye contact
- Be enthusiastic
- Introduce students to the lab/team
- Acquaint students with the building
- Get students started on a lab notebook
- Talk about the “big picture”
- Discuss lab/research team policies
- Discuss the mentee’s background and goals

Questions *Mentors* May Ask *Students*:

- Where is your hometown?
- What is your major? What are your future career plans?
- How/when did you become interested in research?
- Why do you want to do research? How will it help you reach your goals?
- Do you have any previous research experience? If so, what did you do? What did you like about it? What did you dislike about it?
- What would success look like in this research project to you?
- How do you learn best? (e.g. hands-on experience, reading, verbal explanations, process diagrams, etc.) What is the most useful kind of assistance I can provide?
- Do you prefer to work alone or in groups? What kind of group or collaborative work experience have you had?
- Have you completed Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) training?