

BCDB Mentee-guided Recommendations

This document contains pointed questions designed to cultivate informative conversation as students consider faculty for formal mentorship. The following recommendations were curated by the BCDB Mentoring and Equal Opportunity (MEO) Committee under guidance of GDBBS DSAC. By discussing proposed topics, students should be able to both make well-informed mentor/lab selections and establish impactful mentee/mentor relationships.

Mentoring Philosophy:

1. Have you completed training required by the BCDB program?
2. What is your mentoring philosophy?
3. How have you as a mentor made efforts to support individual students in your lab?
4. How many students have you mentored and where are they now?
5. How are individual trainees celebrated and supported by you and members of your lab?
6. Is the lab currently involved in scientific/community outreach, or are there any plans for outreach in the future?

Mentor/Mentee Communication:

1. How frequently do you plan to sit down and formally meet?
2. What is the mentor's policy when it comes informal meetings?
3. What is the best way/technology to get a hold of each other?
4. How might communication change between the mentor and mentee when preparing grants/manuscripts/presentations?

Schedule:

1. What does a normal work week look like to you?
2. Do you expect me to work regular hours (9am-5pm)?
3. Should my schedule resemble that of others in the lab or can I make my own schedule?
4. How do you feel about students who take courses during their graduate career that may interfere with lab meetings?
5. When are department seminars? Am I expected to attend department events?
6. Are there lab and/or department events (lab meeting, seminars, etc.) that the mentee is expected to attend?
7. Discuss expectations regarding vacations and time away from campus and how best to plan for them. What is the timeframe for notification regarding anticipated absences?

Lab Citizenship:

1. How are lab notebooks maintained in the lab?
2. What are the major safety concerns in the lab?
3. Are there lab chores? How are they divided?
4. Who can the mentee go to in lab with issues (i.e. troubleshooting an experiment, ordering supplies, etc.)?

Professional Development:

1. Who will be the primary author responsible for writing manuscripts stemming from work performed by the mentee?
2. How many days does the mentor need to turn around edits to the mentee on grants, manuscripts or other written material?
3. What mentorship opportunities are available in lab to the mentee?
4. Is there funding available in lab to aid in professional development opportunities for the mentee (i.e. short courses, conferences, etc.)?
5. What does success in this research experience look like to the mentor?