Creating a Positive Student Research Experience

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About us

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The plan

• Getting students
• Creating expectations
• Managing a project
• Communicating
• Overcoming barriers
Getting students

CLASS ADVERTISEMENT

HANDSHAKE

STUDENT RECRUITING
STUDENTS
Students recruiting students

- Not actively seeking students
  - Casual conversation
  - On campus presentations

- Actively seeking students
  - Reaching out to students you know
  - Discussing with faculty members

- Meet with the student
Creating expectations

Student
• Start with the end in mind
  • Know the rules for the deliverable (journal specs, Grad School, deadlines)
• Deadlines
  • You know your schedule and your work ethic best
  • Create deadlines with SMART goals in mind
  • It is valid to overestimate your deadline to an extent

Faculty
• What is the deliverable?
  • Poster presentation, oral presentation, manuscript, abstract, etc.
  • Breakdown into small manageable chunks
• Pull, read, and discuss previous literature together
  • You get good work by showing the student good work
• Set deadlines
  • Give the student 51% of the vote
Creating expectations

**Student**
- Deliver feedback to different types of students
- Receiving feedback you may not necessarily want to hear

**Faculty**
- “To be clear is kind.” – Brené Brown
- Go over the feedback together
Managing a project

- Who is the driver?
- Small manageable chunks
  - Create a task list
  - Organize the tasks into a realistic timeline
    - Start with the end in mind and work backwards
- House it somewhere that will be useful to you
- Align deadlines with meeting schedule
Google

Excel

Pen/Paper
- Calendar
- Checklist
- Planner
- Post-its

Scrum/Agile
- Trello
- Asana
- Teams
Communicating

- Preferred methods
  - Email, text, project management platform
  - Use "Review" feature

- Frequency
  - If you have a question, ask. Don’t wait until your next scheduled meeting to ask questions

- Two ways for the student
  - With the mentor
  - With other students involved in the research
Communicating

• Preferred methods
  • Don’t assume the student’s preferred method is the same as yours

• Frequency
  • Meeting or touching base to check-in every 2 weeks or so is typically a good plan
  • Text or more informal communication can be done to quickly answer questions between meetings

• Make the work visible
  • OneDrive, Google Drive
  • Improves accountability and curiosity

Before you “assume” try this crazy method called “asking”.
Overcoming barriers

Barriers

• Lapses in communication
• Missing a deadline
• Not putting in the work required or poor work
• The work is hard or more than they expected

Solutions

• Be curious
• Be transparent
• Train the student to be a colleague
• Provide one another with equal latitude and curiosity
Getting to the finish line

- The research experience will be messy
- Celebrate finishing tasks
- Create a positive communication environment
- Share your own methods for overcoming hurdles
Questions, comments, and conversation

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