**Expectations for Beginning Undergraduate Research – Questions for the Student to Consider**

Before we meet to formalize our goals for our research project, I ask that you please consider these questions and be prepared to discuss each. This is to make sure that our expectations for the work are transparent, and that we can work together to facilitate a good experience in this project.

1. Why do you want to do research?
2. Do you have any previous research experience, and are there any skills that you bring from such experiences to this project?
3. What are your career goals and how can this research experience best help you achieve them?
4. What compensation and/or recognition are you expecting to result from your work? (E.g., financial pay for your work, university credit, authorship on a publication, presentation at a conference, etc.) Are these expectations requirements or hopes for you?
5. What would success in this research experience look like to you?
6. How many hours per week do you expect to work on this research?
7. For how long do you hope to work on this research?
8. What minimum length of time are you willing to commit to working on this project?
9. How do you usually prefer to learn new skills? For example, some people might prefer a written procedure that they can explore privately, while others might want to talk through a procedure before working on it. Do you have any typical preferences?
10. How will you document your techniques and results so that you still understand them in the future? If you document your work in a notebook (or similar), are you comfortable allowing your research advisor to see it?
11. Do you know what aspects of your research are you allowed to share, publish, or discuss with others?
12. How do you prefer to be contacted? What modes of communication do you prefer and are acceptable to you? (E.g., email, in person, via Slack, etc.)
13. If you get stuck while working on this research, when will you decide to seek help and how will you do it?
14. If/when it becomes time to write about this research, how do you envision the research advisor helping with writing skills? Do you feel confident expressing yourself in writing and only want feedback after drafting documents yourself, or do you feel like you would prefer guidance at earlier stages?
15. What will your weekly schedule look like for working on this project? If you must deviate from this schedule (e.g., to study for a crucial exam or to leave town on vacation), how much notice will you give the research advisor?
16. How do you prefer to receive feedback on your progress? Do you prefer to receive suggestions for improvement via written comments, verbal comments, or some other way?
17. Do you have any material needs to begin working on this project? For example, do you have adequate access to computers or books that you might need?
18. Is there anything else that you wish to discuss as we begin this project?

In our first meeting, we will use our reflections on these questions to complete the agreement on the next page, so that we have clear expectations of each other. These questions will also help us realize if there is anything we need to add to the agreement on the next page.

**Expectations Agreement for Undergraduate Researchers and Mentors**

Student Researcher: Research Mentor:

This agreement outlines the parameters of our work together on this research project.

1. Our major goals are:

* Proposed research project goals:
* Student researcher’s personal/professional goals:
* Mentor’s personal/professional goals:

1. The student’s initial role in this project will be:
2. Our shared metric for basic success in this project is:
3. We agree to work on this project for a minimum duration of:
4. The student researcher will be available to work on this project for at least this minimum number of hours per week during the academic semesters:
5. We agree to meet to discuss our progress with a minimum frequency of:
6. We will be available to communicate with each other via:
7. The student researcher will document their progress, techniques, and results by:
8. If the student research gets stuck while working on the project, the procedure to follow will be:
9. The student researcher will receive compensation/recognition in the form of:
10. The results of this research may be disseminated and recognized via:
11. While also acknowledging that life often has unexpected obstacles, if either the student researcher or the mentor needs to deviate from these schedules and goals, they will do their best to give the other party notice of at least:

Research student signature and date:

Research mentor signature and date: