

How to find a mentor?

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What is a mentor?

mentor [men-tawr, -ter] [SHOW IPA](#) 

[SEE SYNONYMS FOR *mentor* ON THESAURUS.COM](#)

noun

- 1 a wise and trusted counselor or teacher.
- 2 an influential senior sponsor or supporter.

Source: *Dictionary.com*

Why do I need a mentor?

It always helps to have someone in your corner cheering you on, especially at key junctures like deciding what classes to take, what internships to apply to, or what to do after graduation!

Who can be a mentor?

Anyone on a similar path as you, but further along. For example,

1. A more ***senior colleague/classmate*** in your degree program or an organization like R-Ladies Irvine.
2. A ***boss at an internship*** and other co-workers at this internship.
3. Professionals you meet at networking events such as today's.

Some Of My Mentors



Image source:

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/the-digital-self/201709/10-key-rules-building-powerful-mentor-relationships>

1. Older members of the *Highlander Statistics Society*, a student chapter of the ASA at UC Riverside.
2. My undergraduate research mentor, Dr. Subir Ghosh.
3. Professionals like Madeline Bauer, who my UCR classmates and I met at UCLA's *DataFest 2014*.

Older Colleagues: Semi-official Mentors



UCR Participants at UCLA *DataFest* 2014. Photo
Credit: Jill Smith.

Fellow UCR Stats Club Members

- I Joined as a first year in 2013
- Initially intimidated by the older students, I quickly found out everyone was really welcoming.
- Types of questions I asked:
 - What classes to take?
 - What do you plan to do after graduation?

Takeaway: don't be afraid to approach your more senior colleagues. 99 times out of 100, they are happy to share advice.



UCR Participants at UCLA *DataFest* 2014. Photo Credit: Jill Smith.

UCR Stats Club

Our club advisor, Jill Smith:

- A mentor to everyone in the club
- Made sure we all were doing okay
- Connected us with other stats students interested in similar things, e.g. CS+statistics, graduate school, research, etc.
- Helped us organize events, including trips to companies and funding.

Takeaway: Stay connected with the people and events at organizations like R-Ladies Irvine!

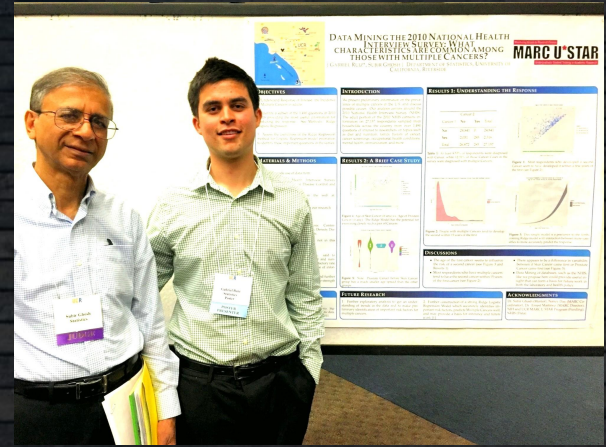


A trip in 2016 to Amgen Pharmaceuticals.



One of our bi-monthly street cleanups in 2016.

Research and Internship Mentors



Dr. Subir Ghosh and I at the UCR Undergraduate Research Symposium in 2016.



MARC U STAR Scholars cohort, 2015-16 School year. Image source: marcu.ucr.edu

How to even find an internship to begin with?



- “Secret Formula”? None that I know of. Just keep applying and never be discouraged.
 - Think of an internship/scholarship you applied to but didn’t get as practice for the next opportunity you *will* get.
 - If possible, apply early and often.
- Again, talk to your older colleagues for their recommendation.
- Undergraduate Research Programs at UCR and many UC’s and CSU’s: MARC U STAR, CAMP/LSAMP, McNair Scholars, SACNAS, University Honors, and many more.
- Outside of University: Data Science & Statistics groups, like OCLB-ASA & R-Ladies Irvine
- Participate in DataDives/DataFests/Data “hack-a-thons”

Networking with Professionals as a Student at DataFest-like Events



DataFest 2015 at UCLA (Photo Credit: Me)

What is DataFest?

- Competition for undergraduates interested in Statistics, Machine Learning, and Data Science
- Founded by Rob Gould at UCLA in 2011 with just 30 students, but in 2016+ held at 19 universities across the US, 1 in Canada, and 1 in Germany and sponsored by ASA (source: <http://datafest.stat.ucla.edu/>)
- Gives students hands-on experience with real-world data.
- Gives professionals and students the opportunity to mingle.
- Past Data Sponsors: LAPD, eHarmony, GridPoint, Edmunds.com, TicketMaster.

Special Shoutout: Madeline Bauer who led several R workshops at UCR to prepare us for DataFest on Saturdays between 2015 and 2017.



“μ β Believe It!” showing great teamwork at DataFest 2016.



DataFest 2015 at UCLA.

Thank you! And good
luck to the students
this school year :-)

