

Mentor Interview Guidelines

Guidelines:

Sometime during the first three weeks of the Institute you will be expected to interview your research mentor. From this conversation, you will write a paper about what you learned. The paper must be **typed, single-spaced, and approximately two pages**. Your write-up should be a synthesis of your interview—NOT a running dialogue of your questions and the responses. Please take some time to identify key themes or topics that were particularly interesting to you.

Background:

The goal of your interview is to find out how your research mentor became a professional. Examples of interview questions may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- What advice could you share with me about becoming a future graduate student:
 - Successfully working in an academic setting?
 - Average day of a graduate student in our discipline?
 - Pursuing a research agenda?
 - Becoming a faculty member?
 - Balancing teaching, service, and research?
- What professional activities are you involved in (e.g., grants, officer in professional society, textbook writing, etc)? How did you get involved in these activities?
- How has your approach to teaching changed over the years?
- How has your approach to research changed over the years?
- How has your approach to mentoring students changed over the years?
- What skill set do you see us developing during the research institute?
- What are your expectations of me as your mentee?

Additional Questions if this is your 2nd Interview:

- What skill set do you see you and I developing during the research institute?
- This summer, what are your expectations of me as your mentee?
- What common barriers do first year graduate students face in our discipline?
 - How have successful students overcome these barriers?
 - What's the average day like for a graduate student in our discipline?
- What recommendations do you have for me regarding applying to graduate school?
- How has research trends shifted our discipline? e.g., new areas, new technology or procedures?
- How do you incorporate conferences into your academic career?
 - As an undergraduate, what suggestions do you have for me about attending professional conferences? e.g., funding, scheduling, etc.
- What strategies do you use to balance your personal and professional responsibilities?