

Welcome to Faculty mentoring! – A Guide for Biochemistry Students

Purpose of Faculty Mentoring

Faculty mentoring gives you the chance to get the perspective of a professional scientist on your career plans, research ideas and anything else that relates to your future. Whether you intend to enter the job market, go to graduate school, or go to professional school after graduation, your faculty mentor can help you. Your academic advisor (Sherry) will assist you with questions about course selection, curricular decisions, study abroad, scholarships, forms and other academic issues. She can also help you with career planning, but will not be able to provide the same perspective as a practicing biochemist. No matter what your future plans, you will need letters of recommendation from science faculty, so take advantage of this opportunity to get to know a professor in your department!

Procedures Related to Faculty Mentoring

1. You must meet with your faculty mentor each semester (usually during February and September)
2. Sherry will remind students via email when it is time to contact their mentors about setting up a meeting.
3. You must present your completed and signed faculty mentoring form each semester before your registration PIN will be released.
4. Failure to meet with your faculty mentor will cause your course registration to be delayed.

How should I prepare?

At your initial faculty mentoring session, the objective is for you and your faculty mentor to get to know each other. Be prepared to talk about yourself. Here are some questions you might ask to try to get to know your faculty mentor:

- What area of biochemistry do you study?
- What degrees do you have and where did you get them?
- What class(es) do you teach?
- What do you do besides be a faculty member (other interests, etc.)?

For subsequent advising sessions, think about your plans, ideas, questions, etc., before your meeting with your faculty mentor. Be prepared to talk about yourself, but also to listen carefully to your mentor. You might ask questions like:

- What kind of things might I do now that will make me a more attractive potential employee (or graduate or professional school candidate) later?
- Do you have any recommendations about who I might approach about undergraduate research?
- What kind of experiences would you recommend for someone with my career goals?
- **Don't forget to thank your faculty mentor!!!**