

LAB ETIQUETTE

UNIVERSITY
OF MIAMI



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WHO IS YOUR FACULTY MENTOR?

- PI or Principal Investigator is your faculty mentor
- Student ideally interviews with the PI
- If interviewed by another lab supervisor, student should set up initial meeting with mentor
- Student should meet regularly and at the end of the rotation with the mentor, even if not working directly with them
- Mentor is there to help and guide the student

FACULTY MENTOR QUOTE

“...research is not like taking classes. Sometimes there is no correlation of time spent and getting quality results. This is perhaps the most important thing that the student without any prior research experience has to understand.”

POSITIVE TRAITS...

- Curious
- Take initiative to learn new things
- Hard-working
- Interested and dedicated to their research
- Helpful contributors (offer thoughts & ideas)
- Motivated, have a great attitude



Positive Traits, Cont.

- Punctual
- Team player (work well with and help others in lab)
- Adaptable to needs of project
- Work independently once trained
- Follow instructions
- Good Communicator (address issues, stay connected to lab activities, respond to emails)

NEGATIVE TRAITS

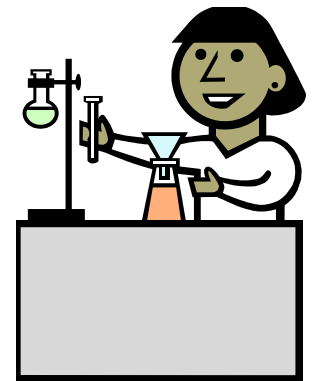
- Lack time and continuity (need to make a substantial time commitment on a regular basis)
- Unreliability (not showing up in the lab at agreed time)
- Over-commitment with other activities; poor time management skills
- Lack of focus (to stay on course, meet regularly with faculty mentor and immediate supervisor)

MENTOR QUOTES ON SUCCESSFUL STUDENTS

- “Highly **motivated** ...when student came to my lab they had no previous experience. The student learned to handle a pipette on day 1 and ended independently generating a site-directed mutagenesis in the relA gene. Student is **intellectually very involved** in the project, **curious** and eager to take the most challenging tasks.”
- “Personality is perfect for **teamwork!**”
- “This student was fantastic and made a fantastic contribution to our research effort. Student was able to **work independently** and came up with **good ideas**.”
- Student **worked hard** and was **observant** as any good scientist should be. I hope this student comes back!”
- “Very **professional**. **Engaged** in the research project and would frequently ask for feedback and suggestions on how to improve their performance. Incorporated any feedback and suggestions given.”
- “Fantastic student researcher - **took initiative**, worked hard to learn everything about project, carried out experiments independently and was always there if I or anyone else in the lab needed an extra pair of hands.”

WHAT STUDENTS LIKED MOST ABOUT RESEARCH:

- “Learning the publication process.”
- “I have gained a clear understanding of how research is conducted and analyzed, which will hopefully help me in furthering my professional career.”
- “I liked being in the research setting and getting a true feel for how the process of thinking of a problem, researching, deciding on a solution to test, and analyzing data comes together.”
- “I enjoyed being exposed to a real laboratory environment.”
- “Learned a lot. Now interested in doing an honors thesis.”



PROFESSIONALISM DON'TS



- Dress
 - Wear close-toed shoes
 - Ask if pants are required
- Lab computers are for lab/research related use
- Do not use your own mobile devices for social media, email, surfing, etc. during laboratory work unless you have cleared this with your supervisor
- Check with your supervisor whether it is appropriate or not to be listening to mobile devices with ear buds or ear phones during laboratory work
- No food or drinks are allowed in labs

RESEARCH TIPS

- Complete required training in a timely manner (CITI, HIPPA, animal safety)
- Maintain CONFIDENTIALITY
- Follow instructions and safety procedures
- Learn how to do literature searches, read scientific papers relevant to research topic
- Experiments do not get completed at the exact same time every single week, be prepared to be flexible and come in when the experiments need to be done



IN THE END, THESE ARE THE BENEFITS OF RESEARCH

- Gain valuable experience (build resume)
- Expand your knowledge (develop research focus for graduate or medical school)
- Make excellent connections while participating in lab culture and community (career guidance)
- Opportunities to publish (post your accomplishments on our 'Student Successes' page)
- Opportunities to present your work at a conference
 - National conferences, seminars, UGR's Undergraduate Research, Creativity and Innovation Forum
 - Meet other students conducting research, learn about graduate and medical schools
- Letters of recommendation (if student was a strong contributor)
- Possible class credit

ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING.

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Please complete our online survey