



How to find a mentor – what do the Faculty say!

Shea Tuberty, Ph.D., Faculty, Department of Biology

I look for a student with the following: 1) a real interest in what I'm doing so that they are easily invested in the goals of the lab; 2) those that are able to cut out a significant amount of time (>3hrs) on days that I'm available; 3) students that are motivated and self-starters, independent workers, that can be counted on to finish work without me present, and 4) strong students with good GPAs and writing skills so that they are likely to be successful grant and abstract writers.

Brooke Christian, Ph.D., Faculty, Department of Chemistry

I look for the following in my research students: 1) Availability – must have 3-4 hours open in their class schedules at least 2 days per week; 2) Reliability; 3) Grades – I prefer my students to have a GPA above 3.00; and 4) Intellectual curiosity – meaning don't just do an experiment because I told you to instead, consider questioning everything and read the literature.

Tatyana Ruseva, Ph.D., Department of Government and Justice Studies

I am looking for a student with an inquisitive mind, good work ethic, and interests in research. I also keep an eye for good writing skills and ability/willingness to do more reading (these typically stand out in a class setting). I also care for how responsive students are on email and how they phrase their emails to me -- an early indicator for how effective communication might be.

Adam Hege, Ph.D., Department of Health and Exercise Science

When I look for students to engage in research, I desire to have students that not only excel in the classroom but have a vast array of lived experiences. This is typically found in those who have traveled a great deal either domestically or internationally and culminates in those interested or passionate in a specific topic and a strong compassion for people and in particular those most vulnerable among us.

When I look for students to engage in research, I seek those that not only excel in the classroom, but those that come to class and are engaged in classroom discussions and are able to critically think about the world around them. These are the types of students that drive the classroom experience for all students - and, in reality, me as the instructor!