Establishing a Good Relationship

Goals:

- Get to know one another.
- Begin to define your working relationship and establish expectations.
- Define the goals of your research project.

What are the objectives for the first meeting you have with a new undergraduate mentee?

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Questions Students May Ask Mentors:

- How/when did you become interested in research?
- What would success look like in this research project to you?
- What skills (training, certifications, course prerequisites, etc.) do I need to do research with you?
- Who are the other people on the research team? What are their responsibilities? How should I interact with them? What are the proper channels of communication?
- How many hours per week do you expect me to work on the research project? Are there any regularly scheduled meetings I need to attend?
- How do you prefer to communicate?

Questions Mentors May Ask Students:

- Where is your hometown?
- What is your major? What are your future career plans?
- How/when did you become interested in research?
- Why do you want to do research? How will it help you reach your goals?
- Do you have any previous research experience? If so, what did you do? What did you like about it? What did you dislike about it?
- What would success look like in this research project to you?
- How do you learn best? (e.g. hands-on experience, reading, verbal explanations, process diagrams, etc.) What is the most useful kind of assistance I can provide?
- Do you prefer to work alone or in groups? What kind of group or collaborative work experience have you had?
- Have you completed Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) training?