

Honors College Mentoring Plan

Objectives: Develop a long-term realistic mentoring plan and the skills necessary to accomplish the plan by outlining mutual expectations for any stage of the project. Adjust to meet the needs of your partnership, but follow the expectations in the guidelines for the Senior Project/Thesis.

Mentee Instructions: Make an appointment to discuss this document with your prospective mentor, and share the document in advance.

Mentor Instructions: This document helps outline initial expectations for a positive working relationship with an undergraduate researcher, as well as guidance for changes over time.

Foundational Details

1a. Research Stage: This plan is for _____
(See page 2 for descriptions)

1b. If this plan is for “Writing a Thesis,” attach the signed prospectus approved by mentor and members of the Honors College. Confirm by selecting one of the following:

☐

Prospectus Attached

☐

Not Applicable

2. This plan will be in effect until _____ (date) or until mutually agreed upon adjustments are made.

3. Mentor—What would you like your mentee to know about how they should address you (Dr., Mr/Ms/Mrs/Preferred name, other considerations): _____

4. Mentee— What would you like your mentor to know about how they should address you (Mr/Ms/Mrs/Preferred name, other considerations): _____

Exploring Research Options	Writing a Prospectus	Writing a Thesis
Time commitment for mentor and mentee will vary widely, and some of the questions in this document may not be relevant. However, they will help both parties think ahead to the nature of the working relationship.	Mentor will help student define project, identify relevant literature, read at least 2 drafts of the prospectus, and certify to the instructor of HON 301 or the Dean of the Honors College that the prospectus is an acceptable outline of the planned project.	Mentor will meet regularly with the student, guide the process of research/creation, read drafts of thesis, ensure student is prepared for the defense, help coordinate with 2 additional committee members/readers, and ensure requirements that emerge from the defense are completed by the mentee.
	Mentee will complete prospectus and ensure that it meets the requirements of the Honors College as outlined in the syllabus of HON 301.	Mentee will complete a mentorship project and write a summary research/reflection document, generally, spending 7-15 hours/week (roughly equivalent to the time commitment for a 3-credit course) across two semesters on research, creation, writing, and/or meetings.
	A prospectus defense is not required, but a meeting between the mentee and their full committee (aside from Honors College representative) is encouraged between the completion of the prospectus and the commencement of major work on the project. Experience has shown that this practice facilitates communication about, and understanding of, the project, reduces stress around the final defense, and ensures a better final product. As one component of this process, the mentee should expect to field in-person questions from their committee about their literature review, cited sources, and methodology.	Mentee will defend their mentorship project to their full committee (including an Honors College representative) at a public oral defense. At this defense, mentee will explain the purpose and method of their project, and should expect to answer questions about the logic, methods, and findings of their project, as well as about any supporting literature cited in their written research/reflective paper. Following said defense, mentee will work with their mentor to make recommended changes to the project document before its final submission.

Mutual Expectations

5. Communication and meeting plan—how frequently, by what means, and, with what level of formality? Who will have the responsibility to initiate, and how long will it take to respond? Are reminders necessary? Are you flexible? Do you need lead time?

6. Expectations regarding content and feedback (for example, how long it will take to revise or review of manuscript, expectations about deadlines)

7. What impediments might arise? Consider known scheduling conflicts (professional and personal), needed research material/conditions, and difficulties imagined based on work of others. Are contingency plans in place? How might you prepare for these eventualities?

8. What goals, beyond the completion of the thesis, are relevant to this project and to the mentoring relationship?

Skills development for the mentee (one or two realistic objectives)

Understanding of profession, such as graduate school, day-to-day tasks, or major figures

Experiences in or planning for conferences, networking, and long-term goals

9. Steps to goals in 8, above (e.g., meetings, manuscripts/grants, collaborating, steps to independence, etc.):

The Project and the Larger Intellectual Community

10. Will the project require the assistance of other experts, and/or specific networking opportunities/people?

11. How, and by when, will you determine the two additional committee members? If conducting a project outside of your major, are you in compliance with the policy?

Planning for Progress and Grading

12. Benchmarks—consider at least three per term, with dates. These may include items such as draft first act of play, complete first round of data collection, submit 10 pages of draft.

13. If 499 (or other relevant courses) are taken over two semesters, how will the grade be determined? Note if the course is taught by someone other than the mentor.

14. Discussion plan for the first meeting will focus on the topic(s) below (consider goals, skills, impediments, professional planning, in addition to the topic of research):

15. It is important that mentor and mentee have a shared understanding of what role the use of Artificial Intelligence should play in the execution of this project. Please discuss this in order to complete the following in as much, or as little, detail, as you see fit.

In this project, the use of AI is allowable for the following purposes/tasks:

In this project, the use of AI is forbidden for the following purposes/tasks:

****Note that the use of AI for purposes other than those agreed to here, without express permission of the mentor, can be grounds for the termination of the mentor-mentee relationship.**

For Research Projects Only

16. Please attach mentee certificate for CITI Research Ethics training (required by the University—link here: <https://www.southalabama.edu/departments/research/compliance/responsible-conduct/resources/rcr.training.policy.8.2019.pdf> . As of September, 2020, Honors students complete training in HON 301). If this has not yet been completed, please schedule a deadline. Deadline for CITI training (if completed, write in date of completion) _____

Specific Concerns for the Project Relevant to this Plan

17. Confidentiality: List, as possible, areas of confidentiality that must be maintained during the research process, such as legal limitations regarding disclosure of unpublished research.

18. Do you need a safety or Mitigation Plan regarding the use of hazardous materials?
(Select one) ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, attach the plan to this document, or a deadline to complete.

19. Is safety training necessary?
(Select one) ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, list details here or attach necessary summary.

Periodic Review of Progress

Please go ahead and schedule at least two such meetings now, with the first to occur within 1-2 months.

Assess the progress of the research project or planning as an opportunity to celebrate success or motivate for necessary improvement.

At the review, review each item of the plan to affirm, revise, or terminate. Attach affirmation, dated addendum, or revision that reflects changes.

First Review Date _____

Second Review Date _____

Signatures

By signing below, I acknowledge that I will conduct my participation in this mentorship in accordance with the plan, principles, and description provided above. This plan is nonbinding, and both mentor and mentee retain the right to terminate the formal mentor/mentee relationship based on violations of the plan set forth here, or for any other reason, at any time.

(Signature mentee)

(Signature mentor)

(Printed Name - mentee)

(Printed Name - mentor)

***** Mentor and Mentee: Retain a Copy or Photo of Signed Document**