

Finding a Faculty Mentor

Identify a Mentor Who Fits Your Goals:

1. First- Clarify Your Own Research Interests!

- a. What are the topics that interest you the most from your major classes? List 2-3 topics. Search for academic articles about these topics (Use Temple's [Library Search](#) tool) to learn more about them!
- b. See if your department or school/college has a 'research' page that lists labs. Which labs jump out to you?
- c. Think about how the topics you are interested in would contribute to your future career goals, or would help you explore possible career directions.

2. Do your homework!

- a. Read faculty bios! See which professors are working on topics that align with your research interests. Use the faculty directory on your school/college website and enter key search terms to find a list of faculty who do related research.
 - i. [Guide to Researching Faculty- CLA](#)
 - ii. [Guide to Researching Faculty- CST](#)
- b. Make a shortlist of 3-4 faculty to reach out to
- c. For each faculty you plan to reach out to, read 1-2 of their scholarly articles and write down 1-2 questions that you have about their research.
- d. Don't forget to research Temple-affiliated faculty beyond Main Campus, such as faculty at the medical school, Fox-Chase, different reach centers at Temple etc.

How to Contact Potential Mentors

1. **Email essentials-** craft an 'elevator pitch' to send to professors! Your emails should include:
 - a. Professional greeting
 - b. 1st paragraph: (2-3 sentences) Brief introduction of yourself, your major, and your goals, brief summary of your qualifications (coursework, research experience etc.)
 - c. 2nd paragraph: (~2 sentences) Bring in details about the professor's research interests that align with your own interests. Ask a question about one of their research articles you have read!
 - d. (1 sentence): Ask politely to set a meeting at their convenience to discuss these topics further and to discuss any research opportunities that might be available.
 - e. Professional closing

Ok, you've found a mentor! How to Establish a Lasting Relationship:

1. **Keep in regular communication** during AND after your research experience.
Communicate any issues right away, in a respectful manner.
 - a. Meeting over Zoom or in-person
 - b. Connecting on LinkedIn
 - c. Sending periodic check-in emails!

2. **Demonstrate commitment**
 - a. In addition to talking about your research project, discuss your long-term goals with your mentor and seek support and guidance
 - b. Be proactive, offering to go above and beyond whenever possible!
 - c. Be professional!!!! Respect your mentor's time, be polite when emailing and speaking, be punctual and reliable

3. **Show gratitude!** Don't forget to tell your mentors if they are having an important impact on your life! It will mean the world to them.