FMP Timeline

Fall Quarter:
- Turn in application by November 9th to be granted access (if you qualify) to our list of available mentors.
- Attend Networking/Mingle Event (optional).
- Biology students need to register for 199 course by December 7th!

Winter Quarter:
- By week 2: Student/Faculty contract are due; 199 forms are due for all students (except biology).
- Draft research proposal.

Spring Quarter:
- Re-register for a 199 for Spring (or submit exemption to Coordinator).
- Participate in FMP Symposium.
- Submit Final Paper.

Also in Winter & Spring Quarters:
We will provide a series of workshops on how to present at a conference, how to network in academia, applying for scholarships, writing research proposals & papers, applying to graduate school, handling stress & time management, as well as other topics.

FMP Requirements:
- Be a registered student at UC San Diego for program duration.
- Maintain at least a 2.7 GPA.
- Conduct at least 10 hours of research a week.
- Enroll in independent study course (199) for two Quarters, or submit exemption form(s).
- Meet regularly with your mentor.
- Turn in a research proposal and research paper.
- Present at the FMP Research Symposium.
- You cannot be paid for research you do through the FMP.

Academic Enrichment Programs
Student Center B/1st Floor

http://fmp.ucsd.edu
Coordinator: Jessica Davis
E-mail: jjd010@ucsd.edu
How to improve your chances of finding a mentor

If you are looking to work in a lab, complete the lab safety training course for your subject. Be sure that your shots are up to date if you want to work in a hospital or school.

If the professor asks that you have a certain skill, GPA, major, etc., don’t apply if you don’t have that skill, GPA, etc.

ALWAYS GO TO OFFICE HOURS. Have something specific to discuss.

Network! Go to talks, seminars, etc. offered by your department or the School of Medicine. Get to know the professors and TA’s who teach your courses. Even if they don’t have room for a new student, they might know someone who does.

Do not be late; do not cancel an appointment.

Familiarize yourself with the professor’s research. Look at a few papers, books, etc. that they have written. When you contact a professor, be sure to explain why you want to work on that specific research.

Learn Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint; also, if you can, familiarize yourself with platforms/programs/protocols frequently used in your research area, such as MATLAB, SPSS, LINUX, etc.

Go to library training, and be familiar with how to use various databases, including governmental databases, as well as subject-specific ones, such as MLA, PubMed, and NUCMC. You need to know more than just JSTOR!

Even more than being able to present yourself well, it is important to explain why you are passionate about this type of research. Think about this, write it down, and be able to talk about it.

Sample e-mail to a professor

Dear Professor X:

My name is Name. I am applying to participate in the Faculty Mentor Program, which includes two Quarters of faculty-mentored research during Winter and Spring Quarters. I would like to conduct research in Subject Area.

I am interested in your project on brief project description. Your work interests me because Briefly state why the professor’s work interests you. I would like to get involved in research in this area because it will help me to better prepare for Your Professional Goals.

I am a X year student with a GPA of X. I have taken Relevant Courses and Additional Relevant Experiences (brief). My goal is to Goal-brief. I am aware of the commitment required to complete a two-quarter research project and I am confident that I will fulfill it.

Would it be possible to further discuss your project and my possible involvement in it? I am available at your earliest convenience.

For more information about the structure and requirements of the Faculty Mentor Program, please contact FMP Coordinator Jessica Davis at (858) 534-5791 or jjd010@ucsd.edu or go to fmp.ucsd.edu.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,
Your Name
Student ID
E-mail
Phone

Questions to ask yourself before looking for a mentor...

What are your research interests?
Where would you like to develop?
What are your goals?
How do you rate these qualities in a mentor?
• Interested in developing your career
• Commitment to mentoring
• A match with your professional and personal needs
• Professional competence
• A successful track record in mentoring
• Good communication skills
• Will provide networking opportunities
• Is well-known in his/her field
• Is institutionally savvy
• Expresses interest in you as a person

What can you offer your mentor?
What do you hope to gain through your research experience?
What do you know about research in your field or area of interest?
Is there a faculty member working in your area of interest?
Are there particular skills you need to develop or courses you need to take before embarking on your project?
Will your project require special approvals, such as working with human or animal subjects or hazardous materials?
Will your project require funding?
Will you be able to commit the minimum 10 hours a week to your project?
Will your project be done independently on your own schedule, or will you need to mesh your research with other ongoing research?