UAPB Graduate Student Guide to Getting the Most Out of Your Mentors

Introduction

Graduate students at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff should expect quality mentoring from the graduate faculty as a critically important part of their graduate student experience. But mentoring is not something one person does to another. Rather, mentoring is a two-way relationship. What you get from

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Communicate, communicate, communicate! Students are often intimidated by faculty and it can be difficult to break the hesitancy to speak. However, once you do initiate the conversation, you will find that many faculty are passionate about the success of their students and they truly want to help you. Keep your mentors informed about your progress or lack of progress. If you are struggling, your mentors can point you in the right direction to break through your obstacle. They may not give you a direct answer, because part of graduate study is learning how to find or create the answers you need, but they will guide you. If you do not let them know you are struggling, they may become frustrated with you when your struggles delay the progress of the whole group. If you are going through a difficult time and need support or additional time, communicate with your mentors. They often know about resources available through the university or the community that can provide you the support you need. They may be able to reprioritize projects to give you the time you need to deal with a personal issue. For long-term, time-intensive personal issues, the university has a

S/he may go with you to discuss the problem with your mentor. If you are still not satisfied or the conflict has not been resolved, there are more formal steps you can take. These steps can be found in the <u>Graduate Catalog</u>. You are always welcome to discuss your conflict and potential steps to resolve it with the <u>Dean of Graduate Studies and Continuing Education</u>.

Changing graduate advisors

References and Resources

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