

Mentor Interview & Review of Career Plans

If you haven't done so already, please review [CareerPlanINTRODUCTION_2024.docx](#)

This meeting with your mentor includes some interview questions for your mentor and a review of your goals and plans.

Adapt the questions to your needs.

Mentor interview (part 1):

- 1) Do you only do research or do you teach also?
- 2) If you teach, what do you enjoy most about teaching?
- 3) Ask your mentor to tell you how much time they spend in each of the following categories on average. Then address their sources of funding. Please fill in the two columns below:

Time Spent	%	Funding sources	%
Research		Individual or group Federal research grants	
Teaching		Research grants – NOT Federal	
Administration		Non-research grants – (e.g. CTSA)	
		Teaching	
		Administration	

- 4) From what agencies have you received research funding? From which agency have you received the most funding? If NIH, which institute?
- 5) In the next 2-3 years, what agencies do you plan to apply to for funding? If NIH, what institute are you hoping to be funded by? Why that institute?
- 6) If you've had funding outside of NIH, what types of projects were supported by non-NIH agencies?

- 7) Have you had any successful grant applications or research funding support recently? What was it? Can you give a 1-2 sentence summary?
- 8) What proportion of your submitted grants have been funded? Do you get discouraged when a grant is not funded? Do you do anything to make the rejection easier?
- 9) I noticed “SOMETHING YOU SAW IN CV OR BIOSKETCH” in your CV or biosketch. Can you tell me about that? Can you explain what that means? (This question is for you to ask anything that came up in their CV or biosketch. It can be more than one thing. But try to ask about at least one thing.)
- 10) What drew you to research in the first place? What keeps you doing research?

Mentor Interview – Part 2 (mentorship questions)

- 11) What do you think are the most important things for being a good mentor?
- 12) Can you tell me about one of your mentors? It can be a good, neutral, or bad example. What makes them stand out?
- 13) What are the most important things for being a good mentee?
- 14) What are the things that mentees do that drive you crazy?

15) How would you like me to schedule meetings with you? How often would you like to meet?

16) If I don't have much to talk about, would you rather we meet or would you prefer that I cancel?

17) If I have a question, should I wait for a meeting or reach out to you with the question? Can you help me judge what kind of question I should reach out with right away?

18) Do you mind if people knock on your door (or send an email) and say, can you meet for a few minutes?

19) Are there times of day that you do not want to be disturbed? What's the latest or earliest that I can reach out to you if I have a problem?

20) When we write papers together, when do you want to see drafts? Do you want to see parts of the manuscript (like the tables and results) first? Are you willing to look at very rough drafts to help shape the content?

21) I want to share my IDP with you, along with my self-assessment of my interests and skills. Can we talk about that for a bit?

22) Can we go over my goals for the next few months and couple of years?