

## Things to consider when planning an undergraduate summer research project

-ideas generated by iFellow mentors 2015, 2016, & 2017

- 1) timing (fitting project into summer time frame), something achievable by mid-July
- 2) ask the mentee how the project fits into their own school progression and professional aspirations and how it can fit into their senior thesis/project
- 3) project should be built on the mentee's prior experience and knowledge, but incorporate new learning challenges
- 4) outline tasks that need to be completed through the summer to reach the goals- from hypothesis to research expectations, to literature review, to data collection, analysis, and presentation
- 5) encouraging understanding of the science of the project, frequent communication, reminders about the big picture of the research and connections to other iUTAH projects
- 6) work with mentee to plan project, based on their own interests
- 7) sharing and helping aid in acquisition of research skills, e.g. lab notebook, literature searches, science communication
- 8) variety of tasks- give them options and encourage them to write throughout the summer
- 9) When possible, allow the mentee to choose a project from a short list of options that are available- provide opportunities for them to direct and take ownership of their summer project
- 10) additional resources:
  - a) this is a terrific article on mentoring-  
<http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v447/n7146/full/447791a.html>
  - b) numerous mentoring-related resources, including "Entering Mentoring" which is what i worked with at UW-Madison and is the basis for this summer's syllabus <http://guides.uflib.ufl.edu/stemrcr/mentoring>
    - i) you can also use the following website to access materials from Entering Mentoring and adapt sessions to the specific needs of your discipline <http://www.researchmentortraining.org/index.aspx>