

University of Arkansas | Department of Geosciences Geoscience Mentorship Program Proposal

Geoscience Mentorship Program Mission Statement:

The mission of the Geoscience Mentorship Program is to provide an environment that promotes professional development and the passing of intergeneration knowledge between students while creating a culture of engagement and inclusivity within the Department of Geosciences.

Geoscience Mentorship Program Objectives:

- To provide guidance and support to students of diverse backgrounds with a particular emphasis on underrepresented groups
 - Increase accessibility to resources and mentorship for students at all stages of their academic career
 - Share institutional knowledge, skills, perspective, and experience
 - Build a productive and lasting relationship between mentor and mentee
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Program Overview:

1. Recruit upper level undergraduate and graduate students to be mentors.
 2. Student enrollees are sought out on a volunteer basis
 - a. It is important to make this available to students regardless of year.
 3. Depending on involvement, the ideal mentor: mentee ratio would be 1:1-2 based on shared interests
 4. Mentors will be encouraged to attend a brief training program prior to mentee assignment and first meeting (e.g., inclusivity workshops from Fulbright DEI Office)
 5. The mentorship program will feature monthly meetings:
 - a. Initial meeting is to make contact between mentor and mentee
 - b. Every meeting after this will consist of:
 - i. Making contact between mentor and mentee
 - ii. Provide food and drink to create a comfortable environment and encourage attendance
 - iii. Feature a theme seminar to help students with professional development (e.g., career planning, resume workshops, networking seminars, etc.)
 6. Contact beyond monthly meetings is entirely up to the pair
 - a. Relationship is intentional, but not necessarily formal
 7. Mentor and mentee can choose to continue relationship past initial year if both choose to
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Schedule and Considerations:

The GSMP would ideally begin in the Spring 2021 semester. This will provide enough time for full development of the program, recruit mentors, and begin program advertisement and implementation weeks before the semester begins. This may also provide time for the COVID situation to resolve, but if not, we can adapt some aspects of the program to meet social distancing requirements.

For questions about this program proposal contact Jack Fekete (jwfekete@uark.edu) or Cory Hughes (ch117@uark.edu).