Building Professional Relationships

Best Practices
Welcome & Introductions

Agenda

Building Professional Relationships with Faculty
Lisa Armistead, Ph.D.
Associate Provost for Graduate Programs
Distinguished University Professor of Psychology

Building Professional Relationships in the Workplace
Ms. Ramona Simien, Associate Director for Employer Relations
University Career Services

Questions & Answers
Type your questions into the chat window during the presentation. They will be collected and answered at the end of both presentations.
Building Relationships with Faculty

Lisa Armistead, Ph.D.
Associate Provost for Graduate Programs
Distinguished University Professor of Psychology
Georgia State University
The core of graduate education in the U.S., as in many other countries, is the close relationship between the research student and the mentor, particularly for students enrolled in Ph.D. programs. These relationships begin as mentor/advisor and pupil and ideally end up as colleagues. Obviously, under these circumstances, it is imperative that the student and supervisor be as carefully matched as possible. Matching or fit can be an ongoing process and you can contribute to the success (or failure) of fit.

— Council of Graduate Schools Publication: Research Student and Supervisor
Four Areas to attend to as you do your part to have good relationships with your mentor and other faculty in your program:

1. Understand the Expectations
2. Be Professional
3. Practice Good Time-Management
4. Manage issues in the relationship
Understand the Expectations

- Hours per week
- Responsibilities
- If in doubt, ask for clarification
- Discuss publication credit, where appropriate
Be Professional

- Formal address
- Punctuality
- Email etiquette
- Take responsibility for your behavior
- Make the most of the learning experience
Practice Good Time-Management

- Huge diff between grad and ugrad
- Everything takes much longer. Plan accordingly.
- Try not to over-commit
- Break large tasks into smaller chunks and set deadlines (collaboratively if possible)
Manage Issues in the Relationship

• Understand your role in the problem and take responsibility
• Don’t avoid
• Talk first directly to the faculty member
• Elevate as needed
BUILDING PROFESSIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

Ramona Simien, Associate Director, Employer Relations
Overview

The Appreciation Model → Strategies → Resources

Next Steps
How do you feel when you are appreciated?

Gratitude Promotes
Relationship Maintenance
Improve your communication skills

Respect for others

Respond to feedback positively

Check-in
STRATEGIES CONT'

- Celebrate others
- Seek opinions
- Get coffee

“I cheer for people. I was raised to believe there’s enough sun for everybody.”

What do you think?
RESOURCES

1. Eventbrite
2. Portfolium
3. Meet-ups
4. LinkedIn
5. Professional Associations
RESOURCES CONT'

- Community Networks
- Volunteering
- Social Organizations
- Neighborhood Associations
- City Initiatives
- Do some housekeeping
  - Set aside some time to perform connection housekeeping
  - Re-introduction is okay
  - Ask a question
  - Suggest a coffee meet up
  - Send a thank you follow-up
Questions
Building Professional Relationships

THANK YOU
Office of the Associate Provost for Graduate Programs

graduate.gsu.edu/professional-development

University Career Services
career.gsu.edu