**NSF Graduate Student Mentoring Plan**

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Note to investigators: The Graduate Center for Transformative Mentorship (GCTM) at Clemson provides this mentoring plan as an example. PIs are encouraged to tailor each plan based on the project, the goals of the academic program, and the needs of the graduate student. The mentoring plan must not exceed 1 page. NSF is taking the mentoring of graduate students very seriously and will pay particular attention to the quality of this plan. In addition, if this section is missing, the proposal will not be reviewed. For more information, see [PAPPG](https://new.nsf.gov/policies/pappg/24-1). Additional information on the GCTM is available [here](https://www.clemson.edu/graduate/professional-development/graduate-center-for-transformational-mentorship/index.html).

Mentoring plans describe the elements that will be provided to the graduate students supported by the NSF funding. These elements should be tailored to prepare graduate students for their chosen career path and include:

* **Orientation** will occur within or prior to the first week of the first semester with the [PI name] and the graduate student. To support the expectation-setting process, the PI and the graduate student will review the PI’s mentoring agreement during orientation and annually. The Graduate School also provides virtual and in-person orientation for all incoming graduate students at the beginning of every semester. Additionally, graduate students should attend a GRAD 360° training to create an Individual Development Plan (IDP), which will be updated yearly with [PI name]. Graduate students will complete training for Human Subjects Research and Responsible Conduct of Research certifications provided through Clemson University and membership in the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI), which meets NSF requirements.
* **Career Counseling** will be provided in part by the Michelin Career Center for Professional Development, Clemson’s professional development program for graduate students (Grad 360°) and by [PI name].
* **Professional Development:** The graduate student will participate in the Graduate School’s professional development program, Grad 360°. Grad 360° provides weekly workshops and resources around nine core competencies: leadership and management, career development, professionalism and ethics, research and innovation, health and wellness, teaching and learning, mentoring, oral, written, and intercultural communication, and social and global responsibility. Training in entrepreneurship and industry-focused career experiential opportunities are also available. Graduate students can also participate remotely in The National Center for Faculty Development & Diversity (NCFDD) core curriculum and additional workshops. NCFDD focuses on four areas to help individuals thrive in academia: strategic planning, productivity, professional relationships, and work-life balance.
* **Mentoring:** Graduate students will also learn mentoring best practices via GCTM’s Mentoring Up training and will have the opportunity to receive a digital badge “Graduate Certified Mentor” after participating in 8 workshops, including writing a mentoring philosophy. In Mentoring Up, graduate students learn to mentor, as well as enhance the mentoring relationship with their PI. Graduate students will have the opportunity to mentor [undergraduates, graduate students] within the lab group.
* **Grant-writing Experience:** Graduate students will have the opportunity to learn effective grant-writing practices, including identifying the context, significance, and objectives; describing the design and rationale; and constructing a work plan, timeline, and budget.
* **Publications and Presentations** are expected to result from the work supported by the grant. These will be prepared in collaboration with the research team and others as appropriate. The graduate students will receive guidance and training in the preparation and peer review of manuscripts for scholarly journals, as well as presentations at conferences. Graduate students will travel to relevant conferences and meet virtually with NSF program officers to foster the expansion of each graduate student's knowledge and professional network.
* **Assessment of Success:** The success of the mentoring plan will be assessed and documented through annual meetings of the graduate student and [PI name] to evaluate progress toward professional and career goals. This meeting will also include a review of the graduate student’s updated IDP, as well as their participation in Grad 360° and Mentoring Up.