

# Ten Tips for Effective Undergraduate Research Mentoring

## Lewis-Clark State College

1. Fill out an Undergraduate Research Contract with the student.
2. Have the student read key articles and books before he/she begins research to ensure she/he is genuinely interested in the commitment.
3. Establish clear expectations about work schedules, responsibilities, communication, compensation (credits or monetary), record-keeping, and assessment/review processes.
4. Make the steps of the research process explicit, describing exactly what the undergraduate student will do at each stage of the process.
5. Assess the student's beginning skill level and knowledge before starting research, ensuring that he/she actively demonstrates each required skill before proceeding.
6. Teach the student resilience; prepare the student for the inevitable setbacks and roadblocks that occur in the research process.
7. Incorporate routine checks for understanding to avoid larger problems in the future.
8. Foster increasing independence, offering more initial support and then gradually withdrawing to encourage the student to take ownership and think independently.
9. Establish the goal of advancing professional development such as networking, letters of recommendation, poster presentation, professional talk, internship, and/or publication.
10. Ask the student to reflect on her/his research experience and have him/her write a list of "Three Things I Wish I Had Known When I Started the Research Experience".

### **BONUS TIP:**

Regularly acknowledge what the student is doing well.