THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON
College of and Health Innovation
Agreement for Research Advisor First-Year PhD Student Match

Student: Shannon Whitehead          Semester: Fall     Year: 2019

Research Advisor

Each student is expected to have a research advisor who helps the student develop as a scholar and who would ideally serve as his/her dissertation chair later in the program.

The research advisor provides the student with scientific guidance and helps with development of the student’s research ideas, involves the student in research early in the program, encourage the development of the student’s expertise and research abilities as well as his/her enrichment through publications. The research advisor is an expert in his or her area with experience and knowledge to be recognized, respected and emulated.

The student/advisor relationship over time frequently leads to great collaboration and wonderful friendships, but it is important that at the onset it be recognized that this is a highly professional relationship with very clear goals and ground rules.

Early discussions and clear expectations from the start on the part of the student and research advisor will result in a helpful and healthful relationship. Regularly scheduled meetings are an essential part of the relationship. These meetings may occur in person, coinciding with PhD intensives, and/or may be conducted through video conferencing (Zoom or Skype) or by phone. Meetings and topics should be documented for both parties’ later reference. In addition to scheduled meetings, the research advisor and student may (and should) communicate at other times as needed through email, calls, etc., in a frequency and manner that is respectful of both parties’ time.

Some common expectations of a doctoral research advisor are that he/she is:
- The first point of contact when a problem arises with the students’ project
- The student’s advisor, but not the student’s teacher
- Normally in a position to guide the student in identifying opportunities for
  - presentations and publications
  - grant applications
  - fellowships
  - networking, and eventually
  - career opportunities

Some common expectations of a doctoral student are:
- Initiate communication with the research advisor (Remember, the advisor has a PhD. You’re seeking one)
- Be proactive and do not procrastinate
- Meet or exceed deadlines
- Ace your courses (Grades and coursework are YOUR responsibility)
- Give you best effort and a quality product. (Make your advisor’s life easier.)

Research Advisor’s Signature: Shannon J. Wilson    Date: 9/26/19

Student’s Signature: _______________________________    Date: ______________

Program Director’s Signature _________________________    Date: ______________