Undergraduate Mentee-Mentor Compact

To get the most out of your undergraduate research experience, it is important to align your expectations with those of your mentor(s). Use the following prompts to think about what you want out of the research experience and then work with your mentor(s) to fill out the Mentor-Mentee Compact to set your shared goals for your time in the lab. After the form has been filled out, please submit it on the CNS website.

Mentoring
The lab is run by a PI (or primary investigator), but many other people work in the lab and you might have someone else serve as your daily mentor. You should find out who will be mentoring you and, if it is multiple people, get a sense of who should you ask for guidance about what sorts of things.

Major goals
What is your project? What are the major goals of the lab? How does your project fit within the context of what is going on in the lab?
Do you want to apply for independent study credit for your work?
A DURF grant?
Do you plan to turn your work into a full thesis?

Learning objectives
What do you want to get out of your project? What do your supervisors want you to learn?
Think about concepts and topics, techniques and skills, work you want to read, things you want to write about, etc.

Level of Commitment
How many hours per week, on average, do you expect to work? How does that fit with the lab’s schedule?
How long do you expect to be in the lab? (semesters, months, years, summer, TBD) How does that fit with the lab’s trajectory of the project?

Communication
How do you prefer to communicate and how does that align with your mentor(s) preferences?
Think about digital vs in-person, frequency, and who should initiate feedback, check-ins, etc.
When and how should you let your mentor/daily mentor know when your schedule changes?

Plans for the future
If any of these factors are still to-be-determined, then try to set a date when they will be decided. Also think about revisiting these goals if anything about your work changes.