

Finding a Research Mentor

BIOL 390 Independent Investigations
Department of Biology
Howard University

- 1 Ask your academic advisor** for help identifying potential mentors in your area of interest.
- 2 Talk to your Biology professors** — ask if they know of research opportunities or if they'd be open to you working in their lab!
- 3 Search Howard University faculty profiles** for researchers across campus doing biology research aligned with your interests. Try filtering by department (Biology, Biochemistry, Center for Sickle Cell Disease, etc.). Make sure the research is biological in nature. Send potential mentors a thoughtful email explaining why you're interested in *their* research and your preparedness — not just your need to fulfill a requirement.
- 4 Leverage previous research experience.** If you've done research before (at Howard or elsewhere), ask your previous mentor if you can continue your research or start a new project for credit during the semester. There's often time at the start of each semester to register.
- 5 Ask your peers!** Your colleagues can share their research experiences and connect you with mentors.

Pro Tip: Your email to a potential mentor should focus on why their research excites you — not on completing a graduation requirement.