

## Advice and Guidelines for FRCT Research Mentors:

FRCT (Foundations of Research and Critical Thinking) course requires all medical students to complete a mentored, hypothesis-based scholarly project.

1. Students must submit a 2-page proposal describing their planned project. **The proposal must be reviewed by the mentor, and submitted before the research is begun.** This allows the Course Director to approve the project before the work is begun. Failure to submit a proposal before research begins may result in student completing work that does not meet course requirements.
2. Mentors must submit a Mentor Declaration Form at the time the proposal is submitted.
3. Students are expected to be aware of and discuss with mentors all expectations regarding the course deadlines. Mentors should assist in the study planning addressing preparation of items such as equipment, supplies, reagents, data access, and special training or approvals, in advance of planned start of the project with these deadlines in mind. (see attached Student FRCT Deadlines file).
4. It is the mentor's responsibility to ensure that any project has appropriate IRB or IACUC approvals when indicated and that the students meet regulatory requirements.
5. Mentors should encourage students to apply for fellowship opportunities when appropriate. Please discuss with the student any fellowship applications the student is submitting, and make sure that any required IRB or IACUC proposals are submitted in a timely fashion. Mentor should be aware of additional fellowship (e.g. PRISM) or research elective deadlines/timelines and expectations.
6. Students must submit a Final Report in the format of a scientific manuscript. That report should be reviewed, and approved, by the mentor before it is submitted to the course.
7. Mentors must submit an evaluation of the student's work.
8. In the event of a failed or incomplete project, mentors should be aware that students can complete a Final Report based on what was completed, or why the project failed.
9. If the mentor has any questions about these FRCT guidelines/requirements contact Dr. Matteson ([dmatteson@som.umaryland.edu](mailto:dmatteson@som.umaryland.edu)).