Every graduate student needs mentors, but who are the right mentors for you? How can you assemble the team that best complements your needs? What can you do to be a sought-after protégé?
What are Mentors?

Advisors
Supporters
Tutors
Masters
Models
Teachers
Leaders
Mentorship styles

a. “Blind we are, if creation of this clone army we could not see.”

b. “Something terrible has happened. Young Skywalker is in pain. Terrible pain.”

c. “Help you I can, yes.”
Mentoring teams

Techniques
Field expertise
Research methodologies
Theoretical insights
Work/life balance
Self-appraisal

What are my objectives in this program?
What type(s) of career do I want to pursue?
What are my strengths?
What type(s) of training & skills do I need?
What kinds of projects do I want to do?
How independent am I?
The direction-self-direction scale

Guided independence and scientific creativity

Micromangement  1  2  3  4  5  6  7  8  Sink or swim  9  10
Identifying potential mentors

- Familiarize yourself with faculty research
- Immerse yourself in departmental academic and social activities
- Observe: classrooms, talks, informal & informal settings
- Share impressions with your peers
- Reach out to potential mentors: courses, presentations, office hours
Making the approach

Faculty want to know:
- Mutual interests
- Motivation and direction
- Skills and strengths

Be proactive, take initiative
Increasing your chances

Have realistic expectations
Be clear about what you’re asking
Establish a track record of dependability
Choose the right venue and moment
How to be a good Protégé

Be efficient, prompt, and prepared
Work hard and submit your best effort
Take your mentor’s time seriously
Receive criticism professionally
Take responsibility
Follow advice
Stay curious, engaged, and communicative
Characteristics of Successful mentees

- Take initiative
- Learn from mistakes
- Be trustworthy, willing, and open-minded
- Welcome experience
- When you’re struggling, ASK FOR HELP
- Be realistic