



University of Wyoming, Department of Physics & Astronomy
Faculty & Graduate Student Mentoring Agreement, v. 2022.1

This document serves to record mutually agreed upon principles and goals that will serve as the foundation of the mentoring relationship between a faculty advisor and graduate student advisee.

1. Goals

1a. goals of the advisee

I hope to learn from Dr. Kobulnicky as I work towards earning a PhD in physics with an astronomy emphasis. There are many skills I can learn and develop from working with Dr. Kobulnicky that will help me become a scientist prepared to excel in my field of research. Some specific skills include using available observatories to take my own data and analyzing the resulting data with important astronomical software; developing as an independent researcher by determining original topics, publishing my results in scientific journals, and presenting these results; and becoming a more effective science communicator and teacher through public outreach and teaching opportunities.

1b. goals of the advisor

I seek to help Jordan achieve her goal of earning a PhD in physics with emphasis in astronomy as she develops the skills of a practicing scientist. These include identifying timely topics for original research in the discipline, crafting scientific investigations, acquiring and analyzing data using state-of-the-art codes and software, writing results for leading scientific journals and for general public audiences, presenting results in oral formats, and developing proficiency in teaching science to college and K-12 student audiences.

2. Steps toward achieving goals

2a. responsibilities of the advisee

- *I will meet with Dr. Kobulnicky weekly to ensure I am proceeding through my graduate education in a timely matter and to seek help with my research skills.*
- *I will consult with Dr. Kobulnicky for feedback on research progress and conclusions.*
- *I will work to remain knowledgeable about the current state of the astronomy field.*
- *I will work to make sure I am making consistent progress through my graduate education with specific career goals in mind.*
- *I will work to find avenues of funding to support my research and education.*
- *I will take advantage of opportunities for professional development and outreach within and outside the department.*

2b. responsibilities of the advisor

- *I will meet with Jordan on a weekly basis to provide guidance on data collection, analysis, writing, and presentations.*
- *I will listen to Jordan's wishes to shape her graduate education in a direction that best advances her desired career path.*
- *I will work hard to find funding that allows Jordan to pursue her dissertation work.*
- *I will work hard to help Jordan identify fruitful avenues for investigation in her field.*

- *I will look for opportunities to connect Jordan with collaborators, resources, datasets, analysis tools, conferences and presentation opportunities that advance the student's stated goals.*
- *I will provide prompt, honest, constructive feedback on ideas, analyses, and manuscripts.*
- *I will put the interests of the student ahead of my own.*
- *I will hold in confidence information of a personal or professional nature that may be shared with me by a student in the course of our interactions.*
- *I will give Jordan the freedom to choose working hours and holidays, as long as productivity is maintained.*

3. Expectations

3a. expectations of the advisee

- *I expect Dr. Kobulnicky will be regularly available for me to interact with and discuss anything I may need for my graduate studies.*
- *I expect Dr. Kobulnicky to be willing to provide guidance to help me conduct research.*
- *I expect Dr. Kobulnicky will be willing to help guide me toward my desired career path with resources or advice.*

3b. expectations of the advisor

- *I expect Jordan to be a regular daily presence in the department, interacting regularly with me, other faculty, graduate students, and undergraduate students as part of our scientific community.*
- *I expect Jordan to be in regular communication with me regarding travel, vacation, absences, other other personal or professional concerns or obligations that affect our collaborative relationship.*
- *I expect the products of Jordan's work to be available to me at all times on a common electronic platform, preferably the departmental linux computer network.*
- *I expect Jordan to lead at least three journal publications resulting from our collaboration and defend the dissertation in not more than six years from the start of graduate study.*
- *I expect Jordan to take advantage of opportunities to be involved in outreach/education activities and to consider collaborations with other faculty members or graduate students, but to keep me apprised of the level of commitment entailed by these activities so that our responsibilities to funding agencies may be met.*
- *I expect Jordan to make satisfactory progress through the graduate program, as defined in the departmental graduate student handbook, including timely passage of the preliminary oral examination to candidacy.*

4. Plan for evaluating relationship effectiveness

We will revisit this agreement at least once per year to evaluate candidly the extent to which goals and expectations are being met and the extent to which our scientific collaboration is proving satisfactory to both parties.

5. Termination clause – In the event that either party finds the mentoring relationship unproductive or not serving the needs of the advisee or advisor, either party has the right to terminate this relationship and we agree to honor that individual's decision without question or blame.

6. Duration – This mentoring relationship will continue as long as both parties are satisfied with its productivity or until the completion of the advisee's PhD dissertation.

Advisor's signature: _____ Advisee's signature: _____

Date:
