Tips for being a better applicant

• Do your homework – find out what types of research faculty are doing and talk to them about it. Show an interest and develop relationships so they can see you are serious about doing research.

• Communicate with potential mentors now so that when the time comes to apply, you have already built upon that relationship and understand what will be required of you.

• Have a good grasp of the project and be able to explain it in your own words. Copying and pasting your mentors description only shows that you know how to cut and paste 😊

• Be aware of what the mentor is looking for in terms of skills, field of study etc.

• Proof your work and have multiple people review it. This may include your faculty mentor, a friend or family member with little or no knowledge in your field, or the University Writing Commons. Feedback from multiple sources with different levels of knowledge will only help to improve your writing and communication to various audiences. When applying, make sure to address all of the requirements asked for in the application. Proposals are often scored based on the specifics requested in the application.

• If you are developing a research topic, do your homework again – find out what research has already been done in the area and why your work will be an important contribution, new approach, etc.

• When applying, make sure to address all of the requirements asked for in the application. Proposals are often scored based on the specifics requested in the application.

• Clearly communicate the significance of your proposed project – to you, to your discipline, and to the university.

• Start early! Many of the programs are competitive...the more time you give yourself, the more you will be able to fine tune your proposal and make it stand out from other applications. It always takes longer than you expect, so plan for the unexpected.

GOOD LUCK!