

Tips for Approaching a Faculty Mentor

For the duration of your time in FrameWorks, your faculty mentor will help direct your research, offer feedback on your writing, generally champion you from phase to phase. They will be an invaluable point of contact throughout the process. Experience has shown us that FrameWorks Fellows are more likely to complete the program and publish their research if they enter the program with an already-established faculty mentor relationship. As you prepare to apply, ask yourself which humanities professors have you resonated with the most? Who takes an extra interest in your writing? Whose feedback has pushed you to think deeply? Approach a faculty member with whom you are excited to collaborate, ideally based on a relationship you have already developed.

Once you have someone in mind, send an email. Tell your prospective mentor that you are applying to FrameWorks, and looking for faculty mentorship. Offer as many details about the program as you can. Here is some language you might find useful:

FrameWorks is a yearlong co-curricular program that encourages and supports undergraduate research and writing in the interdisciplinary humanities. FrameWorks Fellows are guided through the process of conceiving, researching, writing, presenting, and refining using manageable, scaffolded tasks, peer workshops, and faculty mentorship. The climax of the program is participation in the FrameWorks Symposium in April of 2025 and possible publication in the dedicated journal, *FrameWorks: A Journal of Undergraduate Research in the Interdisciplinary Humanities*.

FrameWorks Fellows and their faculty mentors generally meet for an hour every 3 weeks or so. Early in the process, mentors help students refine their research topic and questions. Later in the process, they read and provide feedback on drafts that will be submitted in advance of meetings.

Include a link to the FrameWorks program webpage (uh.edu/frameworks) for their reference. Let them know that the Director of FrameWorks, Dr. Max Rayneard, (mjraynea@uh.edu) will happily answer any questions they might have about the program.

Faculty mentors will want to know what you are interested in researching, so you might want to share a topic or two you have in mind regarding the theme “Our Houston.” Keep it brief in your email, but ask for some time, should they be interested, to talk about your motivations for the program.

Even if the professor you email first is not available, they may be able to offer advice and help you think through your plans.

If you have any questions about the program, or you need help identifying a mentor, you can email FrameWorks Director, Dr. Max Rayneard. Before emailing, please make sure you have read through the available information in this packet and on the FrameWorks website.