Mentor Commitment

1. How long will I serve as a mentor?
Mentors agree to work with their assigned student for a minimum of one semester. Mentors are welcome (and encouraged!) to continue their mentorship after the initial contract has expired, but we understand that it may not be possible for all mentors to continue their commitment.

2. How often do I meet with my mentee?
Mentors are required to meet with their mentees for a minimum of two hours a month, specifically one hour every two weeks. This is to ensure consistency throughout the semester and to allow enough time to proceed through the information literacy curriculum. Meetings may take place in person or online at the discretion of the mentor/mentee, and additional meetings beyond the required two hours a month are encouraged.

3. Why do I have to fill out a “Mentor/Mentee” contract?
Mentors are required to jointly complete a contract with their mentees for several reasons. First, it guarantees that both the mentor and mentee are on the same page concerning details such as how and when they will meet. Secondly, it starts the conversation between the mentor/mentee pair about how meetings will be structured in order to achieve the set goals. Lastly, the formality of a contract emphasizes for both the mentor and the mentee the professional nature of this relationship.

4. Why do I have to submit a “Mentor” contract to iDiversity?
iDiversity requires a Mentor Contract to be completed and returned in order to guarantee that each prospective mentor is aware of their commitment to this program. This is a unique and unprecedented program in the iSchool, and while we hope that everyone enjoys the time they spend with their mentees, it is imperative that they understand that this is a serious commitment.

Mentoring Sessions
1. Where do mentors and mentees meet?
Mentors and mentees are free to set their own meeting location as long as it agreed upon and accessible to both parties. Public libraries and UDC’s library are excellent options. Online meetings via Skype, Google+ Hangouts, etc. are also permissible.

2. Will we know students' preferences (how to meet) ahead of time?
UDC students and mentors will fill out information forms that indicate their preference of in-person or online meetings. Mentor and student pairings will be based on the preferences stated in these forms, allowing our Baltimore-based and online students the opportunity to participate and be matched with UDC students who prefer to meet primarily online.

3. Are priority reservations for individual study rooms at UDC available?
Unfortunately, the UDC library study rooms are reserved on a first-come-first-served basis. Workspaces behind the reference desk can be made available by contacting Rachel Jorgensen, UDC’s Information and Digital Literacy Librarian.

4. Is there a way for mentors to gain guest access to UDC's digital resources?
Yes. Mentors will be given login credentials to access UDC’s digital resources, including the research databases.

Training

1. What kind of training do I get?
All prospective mentors will be required to participate in a workshop that will address the following topics:
   • UDC’s General Education Curriculum
   • Student skill levels
   • Campus resources for UDC students
   • Cultural competency and sensitivity
   • How to teach information literacy
   • How to use ResearchReady, our online information literacy assessment and curriculum tool

2. When and where will the training sessions take place?
Trainings will be scheduled as needed to orientate new mentors. In-person trainings will take place on campus. Online training sessions will be conducted via Google+ Hangouts. Trainings will last approximately two hours.
**ResearchReady**

1. **What is ResearchReady, and what’s their relationship with iDiversity?**
   ResearchReady is an online information literacy assessment and curriculum tool by ImagineEasy, makers of EasyBib. ResearchReady is a ready-made six-module course that guides students through the entire research process—from formulating a research question to citing sources. Mentors will have Administrator Access to ResearchReady, allowing them to monitor their mentee’s progress. Approximately 15 pre- and post-assessment questions will provide further insight as to the changes of the mentee’s skill level.

2. **Is ResearchReady for us or them?**
   ResearchReady is beneficial to both parties. Mentees will benefit from the progressive instruction, and mentors will benefit from learning how to use one of the many online information literacy products gaining popularity in libraries. Mentors will also complete the ResearchReady curriculum as part of their training, so they will be equipped to answer questions.

3. **How do the ResearchReady modules work with the time commitments?**
   It takes approximately three hours to complete all six modules. It is at the discretion of the mentor and mentee to decide if they wish to complete the modules together or if the mentee will complete the modules on their own. iDiversity recommends that at least the first module be completed together to ensure the mentee understands the user interface, and to give the mentor the opportunity to visually assess the mentee’s information and digital literacy skills.

4. **What is iDiversity’s relationship with ResearchReady?**
   ResearchReady is offering the use of their product to iDiversity for this program at no cost. Other than use of the information literacy tool, iDiversity receives no other benefits from ResearchReady.

**UDC Students**

1. **Are students required to participate in the program?**
   No. This program is 100% voluntary for UDC students.

2. **What is the background of students at UDC?**
   The majority of students at UDC are graduates of D.C. public schools.

3. **What are the students studying?**
   UDC’s degree programs are representative of major fields found in
most higher education institutions, and students come from various educational backgrounds. UDC is particularly strong in professional programs, such as nursing, business, and architecture.

4. **Will students be allowed to sign up later in the semester?**
   UDC students will be allowed to sign up at any point in the semester and will be matched with an available mentor.

5. **What if we’re paired with someone who needs math or writing help and we’re not an expert?**
   If you suspect that your mentee would benefit from any kind of assistance outside of the scope of this program, please refer them to Rachel Jorgensen who can direct them to the appropriate UDC support service.

6. **Do the students have the necessary computer skills?**
   The students participating in this program will have various levels of computer literacy. While information literacy is not the same as computer literacy, being able to effectively leverage technology is a key part of satisfying basic information needs.

7. **Any concerns about students using a web based tool if they don’t have computer skills?**
   Using ResearchReady should provide a fairly easy way for students to learn basic computer skills.

8. **What sources are students being asked to use?**
   Students will be asked to use a variety of sources for their research projects, including text, online, scholarly, etc. Students will have access to these resources through UDC’s library.