PBS Graduate Student Program Mentoring

The department assigns a program mentor to all graduate students. A program mentor is someone other than students’ research advisor/mentor, and helps students navigate through the program focusing broadly on their development and well-being.

1. All Year 1 students will be assigned a senior graduate student (a student who has advanced to candidacy and is in good standing) upon entering the program. The graduate student program mentor will be assigned by the Graduate Advisor with the approval of the GAC on the recommendation of the faculty advisor(s) of incoming students. The assignment will be determined and announced by July 1st prior to the incoming students’ registration at UCSB.

2. In Spring quarter of Year 1, when students and faculty members are better acquainted, the GAC will assign Year 1 students a faculty program mentor who is expected to assume the role during the remaining tenure of the student, although either party can address requests to change to the GAC. The faculty mentor may or may not have a research relationship with the student. The faculty mentor may or may not be a member of the same graduate training area as the student.

3. The assignment of faculty program mentors will be made by the Graduate Advisor with the approval of the GAC based on elicited confidential preferences of students and faculty members. The assignment will be determined and announced by July 1st after Year 1. The committee will ensure that the program mentoring responsibilities are reasonably distributed among faculty members. A request to change may be submitted to the chair of the GAC via email or in person at any time during the student’s tenure.