VPCAT Scientific Mentor Requirements/Responsibilities

A strong mentor is a key component to a faculty member’s success. The University of Utah VPCAT Program promotes strong mentorship both in and out of the program to ensure the success of our scholars. We require that all candidates for the VPCAT Program have at least one scientific mentor though more than one scientific mentor is permissible and, in some cases, encouraged.

All scientific mentors for the VPCAT program are required to:

- Have had/currently have research funding in your field (preferably NIH or VA funding equivalent to an R or U grant)
- Currently are/ have been an independent investigator in your field
- Know and have worked with the candidate. Ideally, the mentor and mentee will have at least one publication together or be working on one.

A scientific mentor’s responsibilities to their scholar(s) are:

- For the application:
  - Write a Letter of Support indicating his/her role with the Scholar during their time in the VPCAT Program
  - Within this letter you must also state that you have read this sheet outlining the VPCAT mentor responsibilities and that you will be supporting this potential scholar according to these responsibilities

- During the scholar’s VPCAT Tenure:
  - Meet regularly with scholar to monitor research progress, provide advice on grants, research strategies, publications, and career goals
  - Maintain an open-door policy for their scholars
  - Guide the scholar in the completion of the required Individual Development Plan (IDP) to establish education and training goals, and report progress.
  - Attend an initial, a mid-program, and end of program meeting with the scholar and VPCAT mentor and staff to discuss the scholar’s Individual Development Plan (IDP), their career and research progress, and ultimately their progress and status at the end of their two-years
  - Ensure that the mid-program and end of program reports are completed and returned to Jenny Cochrane, VPCAT Coordinator, on time
  - Maintain an environment to achieve the research goals of the scholar
  - Guide your mentee in the development and submission of an extramural grant proposal