

Strategies for identifying a thesis/dissertation advisor

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Abstract:

Identifying a thesis/dissertation advisor is a challenging task for many students. The outcome of a graduate education often hinges on the topic of the thesis or dissertation and the quality of work that is performed. A synergy between the student and advisor is needed to accomplish these goals. The student must have a passion for the topic and the advisor must have significant knowledge in the area. There are also intangibles like an advisor's mentoring style (e.g., how hands off are they) and job prospects that result from working with a particular advisor (e.g., how helpful are they in helping students find suitable employment). In this session, a panel consisting of faculty members from a variety of departments/schools at the University at Buffalo will present their views on this important topic and solicit/answer questions from the audience. Particular attention will be paid by panelists to challenges that relate to underrepresented minority students in advisor selection.

Notes: