

IS THIS A RED FLAG?

MENTORSHIP

A basic guide to know unacceptable mentorship behavior



ATTITUDE

Your mentor should provide constructive criticism. They shouldn't yell or swear at you or at others in your space. If you wouldn't accept this behavior from a friend, don't accept it from a mentor.



WORK-LIFE

Overall, you should spend 40 hours/week on your work. With certain deadlines, you may need to exceed this, but you should be given time back during other weeks to recoup.



BAD COMMENTS

If your mentor makes comments about any marginalized members of the community or constantly puts down others in your space while treating you as "different than the others", this is bad.



CONTROLLING

You should have the leeway to take leave in the event of a personal emergency. You shouldn't have to justify yourself to your mentor. An emergency is an emergency, and they shouldn't argue with you.



TOO PERSONAL

The occasional friendly interaction is okay, but mentors need to respect personal boundaries. Excessive texting during off-hours, buying of gifts or favors, and anything sexual in nature is unacceptable.



HISTORY

If your mentor has a history of graduate students leaving for other mentors or quitting, there are probably a variety of reasons why. If possible beforehand, talk to these past students about why they left this mentor.