

Finding an advisor

The earlier this process is started, the less rushed the student will be to complete a competitive proposal that demonstrates the student is prepared to begin the research. Given the early to mid February deadline, November or December is a good time to start.

Occasionally, a student approaches a professor with an original research idea of their own. This scenario is probably the exception rather than the rule because most undergraduate students do not have the background to design a project that is original and can be accomplished with the equipment and time available

It is much more common for students in, for example, Chemistry and Geology, to find advisors by going to several professors in their respective departments and asking what potential student projects the professors have.

For Environmental Studies (ENST) majors, they should be asking ENST professors and professors in associated departments (in which the student has had some coursework). For example, I've had ENST students do projects with me, but usually those students have had my introductory geochemistry course. The ENST web site lists associated professors (http://www.departments.bucknell.edu/enviro_n_studies/faculty.html).