1. How did you go about finding your advisor?
   a. Department websites usually list professors and what research they do. Send a professional email to the professor, tell them a little bit about yourself, tell them why you are interested in what they work on, tell them times you would be available to meet with them, and attach your resume and transcript.
   b. Talk to grad students in your department to determine which. It is important to understand the dynamics of the lab and the professor.
   c. Network! Talk to your friends and they might be able to get you in touch with someone.
   d. Talk to your advisor from your department. They can point you to the right people in the department to talk to and can possibly even put in a good word for you as well.

2. How many hours are spent on research per week on average?
   a. Depends on whether it is during the school year or during the summer. Professors are flexible. ~10 hours per week for the school year, in blocks of time throughout the week. ~40-50 hours per week for the summer. Might have to come in on the weekends.

3. Has your research experience fulfilled what you were looking for?
   a. It may not perfectly suit you, but you can always change your research and an unsatisfying experience could still help you understand what you wouldn't be interested in. Also, you still develop skills that you can use later on.
   b. Don't be afraid to explore your options with research!
   c. Sometimes you have to deal with faulty equipment or unsatisfying results, but it teaches you to be adaptable and you still take skills away.

4. As an undergraduate, what are you expected to contribute?
   a. Depends on who you are working with and what the project is. Some professors assign individual projects and others will assign you projects with grad students or other undergraduate students. In the beginning you will get smaller tasks but later on you can get bigger tasks and more independent work.
   b. Undergraduate isn't expected to contribute a project idea, but is highly suggested to offer ideas on the projects that they are assigned since they become the expert on those projects.
   c. Expected to communicate well with grad students and the professor so that they can keep in the loop on your project.
   d. Some professors may ask that you write a report or make a poster to summarize your work.

5. Do you need a reference letter to start research with a professor?
   a. No, it is typically not required. It may be required if it is an REU application though.

6. How much writing are undergraduate researchers expected to do?
   a. Undergraduate students typically write small portions of publications and are listed as second or third authors. Undergraduate students with larger individual projects may have the opportunity to author their own papers.
b. Students are typically required to write a summary report at the end of the semester or end of the summer.

c. Undergraduate students are asked to communicate often with their grad student mentors and their professor.

7. What is the most non-technical and most technical skill you have learned while doing research?
   a. Technical
      i. Running equipment
      ii. Learning programs and software
   b. Non-technical
      i. Communicating
      ii. Answering questions
      iii. Problem solving

8. What if you are given a task that you don't really know how to do?
   a. Sometimes professors are just trying to challenge you. They are very willing to help out if you need it. Just be sure to try it out and then ask for help if you can't figure it out.

9. Is there anything that you would do differently?
   a. Pick research that really interests you.
   b. Read the papers that professors and grad students assigned more thoroughly.
   c. Being more proactive about asking for papers to reference and things to research for background knowledge.
   d. Start more conversation about the papers read with grad students and professors.

10. Is there an ideal time to start research?
    a. When you feel ready, jump in to research as soon as possible. Also, it's never too late to start research. Be sure you are interested enough in the research before you start.