

Mentoring eNews

Making the Most of your Mentoring Relationship

Adapted from Gotta Mentor.com

Communicate clearly

Students, specifically let your mentors know what they can do for you. For example, "I need help getting connected to people in X industry," "I need advice on how I should be pursuing certain types of opportunities," or "Would you review my résumé?" If you want your mentor to connect you with people or reinforce discussions you are already having, send your mentor a message with a 2-3 sentence blurb s/he can share with people you want to be connected to. Include the experiences you've had that are relevant to the audience and communicate that you're a good fit for what they're looking for. Also, revise your résumé. Even if your mentor knows you well, s/he may not remember all of the places you have worked, what your roles have been, and the different extracurricular activities in which you've participated. Mentors, let your students know the ways in which you can be helpful. Sometimes it's through feedback, other times it can be through networking. Clearly define the resources you have available.

Have an action plan

If you are looking for advice on how to pursue an opportunity, create a roadmap with the steps you think you should take, and send it to your mentor for feedback. Give your mentor something to react to. It's going to be much easier for him/her to give you feedback on what you're doing or believe you should be doing, than to brainstorm new ideas from scratch for you.

Build the core of your mentoring network

Invite 1-2 other people you are really comfortable with to your core network. These should be individuals who can offer relevant insight into your near-term goals, and might include classmates, family members, friends who are a few years older, or people you have worked with. You can take advantage of all of their perspectives, including your mentor's.

Ask the right questions

Focus on the questions that have answers that matter to you. Understand what it will take for you to be a compelling candidate when you graduate.

Reach out on a consistent basis

Mentors can be most helpful if they hear from you often. Don't forget to communicate with your mentor at least once a month. Send them a question or a request for advice. If you don't have any questions for your mentor, at least check in to let him/her know you are well. Your mentor can't be helpful to you down the road if you don't keep him/her updated on what your interests are and what you are doing.

Engage your LinkedIn or Facebook network

Think about who in your other networks could open doors or provide thoughtful advice. Hiring managers are relying more on their networking contacts to hire new staff. Don't forget that 80% of finding an internship/job comes from networking. Make sure to let your own personal network know of your internship/job search status and have them work for you while you conduct your own search.

**Got a question,
comment, or concern?**

**Have a
friend/colleague you
want to refer to the
program?**

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