



UNIVERSITY of
DENVER

STURM COLLEGE OF LAW
Professional Mentoring Program

Expectations & Tips for Mentors

Three Core Expectations:

1. Make a concerted effort to meet with your student every month.
2. Serve as a professional role model during all interactions.
3. Communicate with your student and the Program if you can no longer participate or if your relationship with your student is not working out.

Five Tips:

1. Explain Your Expectations . . . Explain your preferred expectations for the relationship early, including how meetings will get scheduled, desired times and types of locations, and what you want to discuss.
2. . . . But Take Their Expectations into Account. Once you have explained your desired expectations, listen to theirs. Every student is unique. Students enter law school with diverse backgrounds, goals and needs. You may need to adjust your style from student-to-student.
3. Communicate Regularly. Send your student an e-mail every couple of weeks to check-in. Constant contact lets your student know you are there if they need anything and you take the relationship seriously.
4. Get Other People in Your Office to Help. Ask attorneys in your office to share their perspective with your student. Encourage paralegals and legal assistants to discuss their role in the office with your student. Ask a legal assistant to coordinate meetings and to remind you to reach out to your student periodically. Recruit others to the cause of mentoring!
5. Consider Using the Discussion Topics. As tempting as it may be to keep meetings with your student casual, nothing encourages mentoring and relationship-building quite like the conversations evoked by the Discussion Topics. The Discussion Topics can elevate both you and your student's experiences.