



UNIVERSITY of
DENVER

STURM COLLEGE OF LAW
Professional Mentoring Program

Expectations & Tips for Students

Three Core Expectations:

1. Make a concerted effort to meet with your mentor every month.
2. Convey appreciation to your mentor.
3. Communicate with your mentor and the Program if you can no longer participate or if your relationship with your mentor is not working out.

Six Tips:

- Put in the Effort. Commit to your mentor. Your mentor is volunteering their time to help you grow. A mentoring relationship, like all relationships, takes effort. Be curious, ask questions and, most importantly, listen.
- Be relaxed . . . Each meeting with your mentor is not a job interview. The relationship is intended to be professional, but casual. Relax. Enjoy your conversation. And don't be afraid to ask those "dumb" questions.
- . . . But Not too Relaxed. You need to make your mentor comfortable with your character and professional demeanor so that they will want to help you and advocate for you. Arrive at meetings early, return e-mails and phone calls promptly, and attend meetings dressed the way your mentor dresses for work – or maybe just a tad better!
- Try to Develop a Genuine, Professional Relationship. The foundation of all relationships is trust. Be honest, modest, and vulnerable. Allow your mentor to know the "real" you so that your relationship can evolve from one of professional pleasantries to enduring professional support.
- Appreciate Your Mentor for Who They Are. No mentor will embody everything you intend to become as a professional or as a person. Developing your unique professional identity entails adopting and cultivating the select characteristics you admire in others. Spend time to reflect upon who your mentor is and what attributes they possess which you admire. With practice, you'll realize you can appreciate and learn from anyone.



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- Use the Discussions Topics. The Discussion Topics can take your conversations in new and interesting directions, helping you and your mentor develop a relationship and expanding your perspective in the process.

Three questions you can always ask your mentor to spur conversation (and learn!):

1. What are you working on this week/today?
2. What big cases/projects are you working on?
3. Any difficult clients/co-workers/opposing counsels?