

What is a Mentor?

- In a broad sense, a mentor is someone who takes a special interest in helping another develop into a successful professional.
- In science and engineering, a good mentor seeks to help a student optimize an educational experience, to assist the student's socialization into disciplinary culture, and to aid the student in finding suitable employment.
- A fundamental difference between a mentor and an advisor is that mentoring is more than advising; mentoring is a personal as well as a professional relationship. An advisor might or might not be a mentor, depending on the quality of the relationship.
- An effective mentoring relationship is characterized by mutual trust, understanding and empathy.
- The goal of a mentoring relationship is to advance the educational and personal growth of students.
- A good mentor is a good listener.
- Everyone benefits from having multiple mentors of diverse talents, ages and personalities.
- A successful mentor is prepared to deal with population-diversity issues, including those peculiar to ethnicity, culture, sex and disability.

Entering Mentoring, 48.

What would you add to this list?

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