



## Mentor – to – Mentor Tips

1. Become familiar with your student's school, financial aid, and where to go for help if you have questions.
2. Just talk to your Scholar like you talk with your own children.
3. Communication is the most important factor in succeeding mentoring a scholar.
4. I like to meet for coffee (etc) with my scholar. It gives me a chance to get to know her. I feel I can help her when I realize her needs.
5. Write deadlines on your calendar so that they won't be overlooked.
6. Note the dates on your calendar when registration starts and when forms are due so that you can remind your scholar and make sure funds are made available in time.
7. The more often you stay in touch with your mentee, the easier it is. It has been great to share the job with Boo. We have strengths that compliment each other. I learn from Boo right along with Jaime! It's great to partner!
8. If you had a close relationship with them in high school, do not be offended if the college relationship becomes much less frequent. Stay cognizant of their incredibly busy schedules and how many different things they are juggling. Reinforce how proud you are of them and how impressive you find their efforts as well as their accomplishments. And just be there when they need you. Feel free to make suggestions while letting them make their own decisions.
9. Keep after them.
10. KEEP IN CONTACT WITH AT LEAST 1 COFFEE/LUNCH A QUARTER/SEMESTER. ASK LOTS OF QUESTION AND KNOW HOW THEY ARE ADJUSTING TO COLLEGE LIFE
11. Try very hard in the beginning to establish some rapport with the student and his/her family. I was very ill-at-ease with them, and I'm sure they felt the same way; we're just coming from somewhat different worlds. We mentors need some tips on how to reassure them and help them to be more comfortable, both with us and the college experience.
12. Meeting face to face and establishing a relationship before they leave for school is critical. A mentor also needs to know when to become involved in a situation and when to "back off" and just guide (ever so gently) your scholar.
13. No matter what the situation, always be supportive of the scholar and be persistent. Never give up on trying to help.
14. Be sure to email somewhat regularly, just to stay in touch and to keep the relationship growing.
15. Be proactive and talk to them A LOT.
16. Be open and listen.
17. Most important to do a budget for the year ASAP. Do not give up on your scholar. Do not be a parent,

be a friend.

18. Do not get frustrated with the academic/financial aid process. Keep your student on the 'high road' by constant encouragement. It does work out if the student persevere. The easiest thing is to give up. Also, never take no for the 1st answer when signing up for classes.
19. Let student know that you are available to help answer or assist with problems or concerns related to there academic, financial and social needs.
20. Do not judge the choices that your scholar makes, simply assist them with critical thinking skills if they are open to it.
21. Occasional to frequent email is the best way to keep in touch, in addition to getting together when they're home for vacations.
22. Try to meet personally with the student frequently.
23. Be interested in all aspects of their life. Be non-judgmental.
24. Allowing them an insight into my life struggles as well, not overloading them, but letting them know that nobody has a perfect life.
25. Don't assume your mentee is picking up on what has to be done. This can be a big shift from HS especially if leaving away from home for the first time.

### **What do I actually do for my Scholar?**

1. Meeting, emailing and talking weekly. Talking about classes, progress, next semester classes, etc. Same for next year, possibly give him some tutoring.
2. Providing her with reminders of various deadlines. She hasn't been very communicative, and often takes a long time to respond to an email. On t he other hand, I feel that she's very self-directed, and focus on her school work, as evidenced by her grades. I guess she's just the independent type.
3. Being a constant in her life, offering stability and a place to be heard. Someone to attend her events and celebrate with her and to listen through adjustments and traumas. Next year, more of the same, although her acclimation has been remarkable and she continues to amaze me. I will continue as I have as much for myself as for her.
4. Getting the loan checks to the financial aid office on time. She likes to talk to me about everything. We need to get together more often.
5. Applying for her money and renewing her scholarship. We meet for coffee occasionally and she's doing just fine. She is so organized and works so hard! This scholarship helps her pay her expenses, however, she works every weekend anyway because she helps pay her parents expenses too.
6. Richard is now completing his fourth year of college, and will require another year to complete his degree in Computer Engineering. His biggest need, therefore, is for me to recommend that he receive a

renewed scholarship award even though he has benefited for 4 years already.

7. This year I helped my Scholar by listening, encouraging, problem-solving, and providing perspective. Next year my Scholar needs me to do the same.
8. Miguel mainly needed career/major advice this year. He will walk in this year's June graduation from UCSD but will need to take 3-4 classes during the summer and fall to get his degree. So he will need some scholarship and mentoring help next year, but he is pretty mature and self sufficient with good family and friend support.
9. Being her cheerleader as she came around the home stretch. She plans to be employed and be living on her own with a much better financial situation than she had during college. I hope she'll contact me if general questions come up about her job, but esp I just hope she'll let me celebrate all year with her wherever she's working.
10. Showing interest and support; validating her choices and decisions. Next year - work on plan to graduate and get job!!
11. My scholar is very self-directed and self-disciplined, so I mostly provide a way for her to communicate her needs to the program. As she will be a junior next year, I would expect that she will require less mentoring (already very little).
12. I help my scholar most by working with her on the financial aid options. She is very focused on her education and well organized. Her grades are terrific so no help needed there.
13. Being a friend. Giving her a realistic outlook on her expenses. Encouraging her to have a positive relationship with her teachers.
14. Talked her through low points. helped with work issues. General encouragement. Scholarship and mentoring kept her going. I think she would have dropped out long ago. She had very little parent support.
15. I helped by keeping in contact and letting him know that I was concerned about his ability to continue school. Next year I hope my student will be back on track and that I will help him with getting the money he needs to lessen the burden of paying for school and living expenses.
16. Keeping him focused and treading through the red tape of classes and financial aid.
17. Simply...being there. Amanda is currently pregnant and not able to focus on school at the moment.
18. This year, making sure all the paperwork for the scholarship was done, just some general handholding. Next year, talk about future plans more -- possible internship during the summer, think about post graduation plans
19. This year: Work through issues on financial aid. Discuss adjustments to college life. Next year: Work through issues on financial aid. Start discussions on work experiences that will lead to success after graduation
20. This year I have helped him with adjustment to college issues, meeting registration and payment deadlines, planning courses to take, buying books on-line, tutoring him in writing

essays and chemistry, and administering the scholarship money. Next year, I think he will need my help in planning a transfer and applying to a four year university, as well as help with chemistry and biology courses, along with financial administration and course planning help.

21. Helping him focus on the competitive challenge of positioning himself for employment now that the classes he is taking count most in the eyes of engineering recruiters. Next year we'll continue this process and start getting ready by developing job interviewing skills.
22. Working out the \*money thing.\* Being a positive voice in coaching her.  
Next--stay the course, keep the scholarship coming, and be a friend.