



# STARTING THE MENTORSHIP

## First Meeting Instructions

The goal of the first meeting is to begin building a working relationship between student and mentor. Both parties should seek to build rapport and trust. Be prepared to talk about your backgrounds, interests, and life trajectories.

This is a template for you to use. Some items may appeal to you and others may make you uncomfortable. You are encouraged to consider each section carefully and feel free to add to or skip around as needed. You have been provided with a suggested structure, but ultimately, you will need to decide what works best for the two of you.

## Conversation Starters

Here are some conversation starters that you can use to get to know one another.

### Questions for both parties:

- Where did you grow up?
- Why did you choose to attend SDSU?
- How do you like to spend your free time?
- What's something you've done that you're proud of?
- What was your dream job as a child?
- If you had a time machine, where would you go and who would you meet?
- What are some items on your bucket list?
- Who do you look up to and why?
- What are your values?
- What is one goal you would like to accomplish within the next year?

### Questions for the student:

- What is your favorite thing to do on campus?
- What classes are you taking this semester?
- What's been something you've learned in the past year that you've enjoyed or found enlightening?
- What school events are you looking forward to attending?
- Why did you choose your program?

### Questions for the mentor:

- What are your most compelling lessons learned?
- Why did you choose the jobs you did?



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- What are your best and worst work experiences?
- What are some of your successes you are most proud of?
- What are you still working on that is challenging for you?

### Review Essential Documents

Take a moment to review the essential documents you'll need to make the mentoring experience successful.

#### [Alumni Mentor Program Agreement](#)

Take a moment to review the agreement both parties signed. Be sure both student and mentor understand what is expected from all parties involved.

#### [Program Handbook, Activity Tracker & Resources](#)

Go to the [SDSU Alumni Mentor Program](#) landing page on our website. On this page, you will find a 'Program Resources' block. You'll see **MENTOR PROGRAM HANDBOOK**, **ACTIVITIES & TRACKER**, and **MENTOR PROGRAM AGREEMENT**. Click each of these buttons to review the available resources.

### Logistics

Ensure each party has the correct contact information including phone numbers and email addresses. Answer the following questions to map out the logistics of your mentorship.

- When and where will we meet next and in future months?
- What are our preferred methods to communicate on an ongoing basis?
- How often will we meet? (Minimum once per month)
- Do we want to check in between meetings (by phone, email, and/or text)?

### Next Steps

Before wrapping up your meeting, answer the following questions to ensure you both are on the same page regarding the next steps.

- Our next meeting is where, when, and how?
- Our agenda is what? (Refer to the Activity Tracker)
- What was not discussed in this meeting that we still want to discuss?