

SUGGESTED MEETING TOPICS, YEARS 4-5

Consider having topics to cover each time you meet with your mentee

Job Search Support

As students start looking for employment spend a session updating important documents and creating a cover letter template. Then show your mentee leading job search sites like LinkedIn or Indeed. If a mentee has participated in an internship and enjoyed this experience, have them look at the company's website for employment opportunities. Walk a student through a job description and explain tailoring a resume and cover letter to meet the requirements, while maintaining honesty in their application. Remind mentees that job searching can be overwhelming and takes time. Colleges also provide job search support, which can be helpful.

Leadership Development

Leadership development for college students is essential. It equips them with the essential skills and knowledge needed to navigate future careers. Help them find opportunities to foster critical thinking, communication, and problem-solving. Have your mentee discuss what they appreciate in good leaders and how to develop those characteristics. You can also discuss ways to step into leadership roles through class projects, employment, extra-curricular activities, and campus life. Discuss how you helped develop your own pattern for leadership and the strengths and weaknesses of your style.

Post Graduate Programs

Many students may want to pursue an advanced degree immediately after college. Consider helping your mentee research programs, secure letters of recommendation, or review their application materials (e.g. portfolio or essay submissions). When applying to graduate school, it is essential to highlight academic achievements, relevant experiences, and future aspirations in a way that resonates with the admissions committee. You can also review certification programs or alternative paths to continuing their education and support their future ACE career.

Negotiation Skills

Negotiating for a desired salary, benefits, or time off is a crucial skill for a young professional. Consider a session where you help your mentee hone these skills. You can role-play different scenarios, practicing how to confidently present a case and respond to various counteroffers. Help your mentee prepare by listing their contributions and accomplishments and what the hope to gain from the negotiations. With consistent practice, your mentee will become more adept at advocating for themselves and navigating these important conversations with ease.

Professional Certifications

For many ACE careers, continuing education requires certifications. Identify what certifications your mentee will need in their future career. Discuss the process for obtaining a certificate, explaining the course work, exam, or cost associated with each credential. Also, you could discuss when to get a specific certification. Many career paths allow for professional development during employment. Help your mentee determine what certifications to earn now, during employment, or to alter the career path.

Post Graduate Goals

Mentors can help students map a plan for goals they might want to set after graduation. It is easy for students to stay focused on finishing their classes and getting a job they forget to set some long-term goals. Mentors can provide valuable guidance in identifying and prioritizing these long-term goals, ensuring that students not only achieve immediate success but build a foundation for sustained growth and fulfillment. By offering insights from their own experiences and industry knowledge, mentors can help students explore various career paths, develop essential skills, and even network with professionals in their chosen field.

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Workplace Etiquette

For young people, it's very easy for them to get stuck in the present moment. Taking some time to develop a 5 year plan might help them understand better what courses to take activities to join internships to pursue and ultimately what they need to be successful in their chosen career path. During a meeting you can take some time to talk about what might be included on A5 year plan and then ask your mentee to work on this before your next session at the next session go over the five year plan you can also create a five year plan based on how your life looked from whatever year in school they are till five years forward. Share out any struggles or challenges you had and how you had to adapt your five year plan to help ensure success

Alumni Resources

It could be very helpful for you to research alumni support at your mentee's university. You could set up a meeting with their career support office to discover what is available for post-graduation, and help your mentee learn the benefits of staying connected as an alum. Encourage your mentee to begin attending alumni events in their final year to network, meeting new people and making connections to support their future. If your mentee is moving to a different city, you can assist in connecting them to their local alumni association. Share how you have benefited from your alumni association.

College Bucket List

Life can get hectic for students in their final year of college, and sometimes they forget to make lasting memories. Consider developing a bucket list of things they want to do before the end of their collegiate journey. Research any traditions on campus and keep an eye out for fun events. Maybe they have never attended a school sporting event or theater show. Encouraging your mentee to experience some fun and unique events before they graduate will help them make strong memories!

Financial Literacy Part 2

Mentees need to know how to support themselves after college. Discuss budgeting and expenses to avoid debt. Based on the mentee's goals and 5-year plan, a session over financial concerns outside of school is important. Discuss living expenses (i.e., housing, utilizes, food, transportation.), student/life debt, entertainment, savings, etc. Helping your mentee establish budget criteria but allow the student to fill in their financial information privately. You may also want to discuss loans, interests, and payments.

Problem Solving

Learning to navigate difficulties and problem solving is essential. Help your mentee learn strategies for pivoting. The process for adapting to unforeseen situations or circumstances can be difficult. Start with a simple problem your mentee is having, defining the problem. Generate ideas to solve this issue, determine a solution, and implement the chosen solution. Discuss larger problems that need to be solved (e.g., need to drop a course because of illness or course not offered during the projected semester). Sharing work related problems and how you solved them can be helpful as they learn to process implementing solutions.

Life After College

Sharing your own experience of transitioning from college to post collegiate life can be very valuable to students. Discuss your first job, where you lived, how you balanced work and personal life and any other tips you might have. For many students, they are about to start their first full time job, with a salary and benefits. Allow them to ask questions and try to help find resources so they are not so overwhelmed post-graduation.