

Mentees—How to Succeed

Mentees are most successful when they are open to new opportunities, are focused, collaborative, motivated, invested and accountable. Below are tips to optimize your success as a mentee.

10 Tips to be a Successful Mentee

1. Drive the relationship (“Mentee- Driven” Mentoring Relationships). Know what you want from the mentor-mentee relationship. Tell your mentor how he/she can be helpful to you.
2. Define your goals.
3. Invest enough time in the relationship. Make your mentor meeting a priority.
4. Develop an agenda (or list of questions) for each mentor meeting.
5. Be open to another viewpoint, to learn new skills, or to suggestions.
6. Ask your mentor for feedback periodically.
7. Reflect on feedback your mentor gives you. What are you doing well? In what ways can you improve? Develop an improvement plan.
8. Take advantage of opportunities your mentor offers you if it fits your career goals. For example, taking on a volunteer role in an organization may lead to national recognition.
9. Even introverts need to network. Go to a meeting with your mentor and ask your mentor to introduce you to people that you might want to collaborate with or who have similar interests.
10. Tell your mentor how much the relationship has helped you or how much you appreciate the advice that has been given. Recognize your mentor’s work by nominating your mentor for recognition or awards.

*Adapted from Ludwig S, Stein R3 & Zerzan JT, et al.4