

Michael G. Massey Professional Mentoring Program

Expectations & Tips for Mentors

3 Expectations:

1. Try to meet with your student every month.
2. Serve as a professional role model during all interactions.
3. Communicate with your student and the Program if you are unable to meet every month or can no longer participate.

5 Tips:

1. Explain your goals & expectations. . . . Explain to your student your goals and expectations for the relationship, including how meetings will get scheduled, desired times and locations for meetings, and what types of topics you think would be good to discuss. You're volunteering your valuable time, it's okay for you to have goals and expectations for the relationship, as well.
2. . . . But take into account their goals & expectations. Listen to your student. Every student is unique. Students enter law school with diverse backgrounds, goals, preferences, and needs. You may need to adjust your style from student to student.
3. Communicate regularly. Send your student an e-mail every couple of weeks to check-in. Frequent contact lets your student know you are committed to the relationship and want to help them.
4. Enlist other people in your office to help mentor. Recruit others to the cause of mentoring. Ask attorneys in your office to share their perspectives with your student. Encourage paralegals and legal assistants to discuss their role in the office with your student. Ask a legal assistant to coordinate meetings and to remind you to reach out to your student periodically. Many of the Program's best mentors make mentoring a team effort.
5. Consider using the Discussion Topics. The Program provides Discussion Topics to guide discussion. While non-substantive meetings are easy (and great!), you and your student may be surprised at how much the Discussion Topics evoke new conversation. Don't be afraid to start each session with a five or ten minute of Discussion Topic conversation.