Professional Areas Represented in the Harrington School of Communication and Media Mentoring Program

- Broadcast Television
- Public Relations
- Journalism
- Finance
- Health Care
- Cable Television
- Business Solutions
- Management Consulting
- Human Resources
- Sports Media
- Marketing
- Film Production
- E-Commerce

Contacts

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Mentoring:
A relationship in which the mentee (student) takes active responsibility for his/her own learning and development, and the mentor serves as a facilitator of that growth.

We have an incredible opportunity for Harrington School students to participate in the Harrington School of Communication and Media Mentoring Program. This program is designed to promote productive connections between Harrington School undergraduate students and successful professionals including members of the Harrington School’s Executive Advisory Board and other professionals in related fields.

Numerous studies and anecdotal evidence suggest that current students become successful in their careers as a result of the mentoring relationships they experience in college. The primary goal of this program is to provide selected students with a clearer understanding of how to engage with the professional world, and also how their learning and skills relate to particular career paths.

Your interactions with your mentor will be flexible according to location and availability. For instance, your relationship may be carried out mainly through phone calls, e-mails, or virtual spaces, or you might have the opportunity (depending on location and availability) to meet with your mentor in person, over lunch, and even to shadow them in the workplace.

3. Know the expectations
- Honor your commitments.
  Show up for meetings on time. If you have to reschedule, do so with an appropriate advance notice.
- Be Open…
  To feedback and guidance provided by your mentor.
- Be engaged.
  Participate fully in the relationship from the beginning to end.
- Take initiative.
  Consider options, ask questions, be willing to take risks.
- The Mentoring Program is a commitment from both student and mentor. It is important that both mentor and student understand the expectations of the program.

4. Be realistic.
- Do you want more …
  Personal advice? Or more career/professional advice?
- Will you meet…
  Once a week? Once a month? In person? Over Skype?
- Know your mentor.
  Understand the expectations your mentor has of you.
- When you make contact with your mentor, take time to establish expectations of how you would like your relationship to be.
1. What is this? Harrington School students have the opportunity to interact with a mentor, who is a successful communication and media professional.

2. What’s the big idea? The purpose is to supplement your academic training with “real world” experience by engaging with professionals. The goal is for you to gain a deeper understanding of jobs and careers in communication and media.

3. What exactly does this mean for me? You will have email, phone, and possible face-to-face access to a leader in the industry, who has agreed to be your personal mentor.

4. When will this happen? New matches are made every semester. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis.

5. How is my mentor selected? We will match students and mentors based on academic and career interests.

6. Once I have a mentor, how is the Harrington School involved? We will stay in touch with you and meet with you to see how you are progressing. All new students admitted into the mentoring program will also participate in an orientation session at the start of each semester.

7. What’s expected of me? This will be explained in detail, but basically you will be expected to establish learning goals with your mentor and work with the mentor to meet these goals. Be proactive in reaching out to the mentor, stay within the boundaries established by the mentor, and act in a professionally appropriate way to best represent yourself, the Harrington School, and the University.

8. How will I benefit? You have much to gain, such as an important contact in the field, increased knowledge of how your skills could be applied to a relevant work environment, and possibly, on-going access to a professional mentor.

Quick FAQ’s

1. Set goals
   - Define your learning goals.
   - Work with your mentor to outline your goals.
   - Determine what actions you and your mentor can take to achieve these goals.
   - Identify when you will accomplish your goals.
   - Take the time to think carefully about what you want out of the mentoring relationship. For example:
     - What kind of questions would you like answered?
     - What types of advice are you seeking? Academic? Professional?
     - Do you want to visit your mentor’s place of work?
     - How many times do you wish to interact with your mentor?
     - Would you like your mentor to review your resume or a cover letter?

2. Be prepared
   - In the preparation stage, establish the types of interactions you’d like with your mentor, determine dates and times for contact, and create a list of questions and topics you’d like to discuss.
   - Types of interactions: Will you be interacting by phone, email, or Skype? If your goal is to visit your mentor’s work site, make the request early to make arrangements.

Tip 1: Set goals
Tip 2: Be prepared
Tip 3: Know the expectations
Tip 4: Be realistic

Tips for a Successful Mentoring Experience