

COE Alumni Mentor Program

The K-State College of Engineering Alumni Mentor Program provides students with the opportunity to learn from experienced professionals so they can further develop their interpersonal and communication skills, expand their awareness of career opportunities and begin to build their own professional network.

Frequently asked questions by potential alumni mentors

What is the K-State Engineering Alumni Mentor Program?

The program pairs current engineering students with professionals who provide career advice, assistance in development of the student's interpersonal and communication skills, guidance in the internship and job search process, and networking opportunities, all in hopes of better preparing students for their professional lives.

What are the requirements to be an alumni mentor?

Mentors must be alumni of Kansas State University. We are looking for successful individuals with professional experience in engineering or other related endeavors. An alumni mentor must have an interest in and the ability to nurture a student's professional development, and have access to a network of professional individuals from whom the mentor can draw on as resources to assist the student.

Why should I get involved?

Perhaps you had a great mentor when you were in college, or thinking back on it, wish that you would have. This is an excellent opportunity to provide that type of assistance and advantage to a young person ready to begin on a career path. Students need someone who will provide them with honest feedback and a realistic picture of what professional life is like. As an alumni mentor, you will gain a better understanding of young professionals entering the workplace, including their interests, skill sets and academic preparation. You will have the opportunity to shape these students into the type of employees and colleagues with whom you wish to work. Additionally, this is a great opportunity to increase awareness of your company at Kansas State University.

What is the time commitment?

We expect mentors and students to communicate with each other at least once per month. Communication could be an in-person meeting, phone conversation, video chat or email. The method you use and how often you communicate is up to you and your mentee to decide. Once you are paired with a mentee, you work with that student until the conclusion of spring semester (unless you or your mentee request to terminate the mentorship sooner).

I do not live in or near Manhattan. Is this a problem?

No, this is not a problem. Our program is designed so that mentors do not need to meet with mentees in person. Many mentors will communicate by email, phone and/or video chats.

How do I get started?

If you are interested in being an alumni mentor, please complete the mentor application on our website at www.engg.k-state.edu/alumni-mentor/mentor-application.

Do you want more information before you commit?

Additional resources are on our website. Please do not hesitate to contact our office at 785-532-5592 or coementor@k-state.edu with questions. We would be more than happy to speak with you in person to discuss the program in more detail.

Frequently asked questions by potential student mentees

Why should I apply for a mentor?

COE alumni mentors provide students with the opportunity to learn from highly successful alumni by forging meaningful professional relationships. Our experienced mentors can share technical expertise, discuss industry trends; share knowledge and understanding; build your professional network; facilitate career development through guidance and advice; and offer advice on professional communication, dress and demeanor. All are skills that will assist you when preparing to enter the workforce.

When should I apply for a mentor?

You should apply for a mentor when 1) you want to develop yourself professionally, 2) you are ready to devote time and energy to building a professional relationship and 3) you are willing to listen, learn and accept constructive criticism. Matching students with mentors takes place in September each year.

How do I apply for a mentor?

Complete the student application on our website at www.engg.k-state.edu/alumni-mentor/mentee-application.

How long does it take to be matched with a mentor?

Applicants should expect to be notified of their mentor within two weeks of the submission deadline.

How often should I communicate with my mentor?

You should be in communication with your mentor at least once per month during the nine-month academic calendar year (September – May).

How long am I matched with my mentor?

You are matched with your mentor for nine months (September – May) unless you request to end the mentorship.

What can I expect from my mentor?

You can expect your mentor to–

- listen to you and answer your questions;
- share his/her experience;
- provide you with honest, thoughtful advice and feedback; and
- assist you in your search for an internship or job, including resume/cover letter help, interviewing suggestions, identifying positions or companies to which you may want to apply, connecting you with colleagues who may be of help to you, etc. (as applicable).

What can't I expect from my mentor?

You cannot expect your mentor to put all the work into this relationship, nor can you expect your mentor to hand you a job or internship. Your mentor is a guide and coach who wants to see you be successful, but your mentor cannot achieve success for you.

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