



5 QUICK TIPS TO FIND A MENTOR

ONE

ASSESS YOUR NEED(S)

Before you contact a mentor, figure out what you want mentoring for and what you really want to learn. Knowing will help you identify and select the right mentor, and to establish clear goals and objectives for the mentoring relationship. Use your goals to determine the skills and qualities you want in a mentor. Be open to the possibility of more than one mentor since one person may not be able to meet all your needs.

TWO

SET YOUR EXPECTATIONS

Be clear about your expectations for the mentoring relationship. Successful mentor-protégé relationships are not only a good match for skills and needs, but also have agreed upon set of expectations for the learning objectives, the amount of time each will commit, and the length of the relationship. Know up front much time you can give to the relationship and the type of support you want to help you achieve your learning objectives.

THREE

IDENTIFY POTENTIAL MENTORS

Drawing on your immediate circles is a great starting point. Create a list of people you already know who could be a mentor. It is easy to overlook people who are a part of your everyday life, but you may already have access to people who can offer great mentoring or refer you to someone who can.

FOUR

NETWORK! NETWORK! NETWORK!

Whether you connect face to face or virtually, expanding your network is also a great way to find a mentor. Professional organizations and events often have “built in” programs for mentoring. There are professional groups and circles on social networking sites like LinkedIn and Facebook which connect you with professionals who are active in their field and may be able to offer mentoring.

FIVE

BE BOLD

Be proactive and ask potential mentors if they are willing to mentor you. Your best chance is to be bold and go for it; it is unlikely that someone will ask to be your mentor. If you have completed Tips 1 & 2, it will make this step much easier.