MENTORING

TIPS
FOR FINDING A MENTOR

Be Picky

There are five basic characteristics you should look for when choosing a mentor:

1 Genuine Interest in Helping You

Do they seem like they care? Do they show interest? Will they dive in with you on something you are passionate about?

2 Good Observer Who Is Networked

A good mentor is someone who observes your talent and can help you network to the next steps of your career, including your college choice.

3 Great Communicator

You want someone who will listen without judgement and hear your passion. They'll communicate honestly back to you on things that you can both do to direct your next moves.

4 Willing to Sacrifice

A good mentor is willing to sacrifice time, and sometimes money, to help you accomplish your next step.

5 Understands Your Purpose

If your mentor knows your purpose, it is easier for him/her to help you achieve your goals.

Initiate a Conversation

When you feel you have found the person, or people, that you can call a mentor, let them know what your passions are and talk with them about your next steps.

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Stay in Touch

If you stay in touch and keep your dreams in front of your mentor, the passions and desires stay fresh.

Signs You Have Picked the Wrong Person

It is possible to pick the wrong person as a mentor. Here are a few signs to watch out for:

1 Busy All the Time

If the person you choose is always too busy or not really listening to you, they may not be the best choice as a mentor.

2 Talks About Themselves More Than You

If the person always brings the conversation back to him or herself, that's a sign they probably won't be attentive enough to really hear you and help you.

3 Assuming

If your mentor assumes you won't be able to reach your dreams, he or she is probably not the best choice.

The Possibilities Are Endless

If you have not yet found that person, don't worry. Be on the lookout for all of the possibilities that are out there. When you find someone to help you accomplish your goals, it makes everything easier, and your chances of succeeding are even greater.