



## Campus Connection and Involvement

Students finding their place on campus is extremely important. If they feel like they matter and belong within the UT community, it's more likely they will continue coming back each semester.

Our campuses offer a wide variety of clubs and organizations for students to get involved with and find their place on campus. This month you'll talk to your student about ways to get connected and to make UT their home. Share your own experiences with student activities and engagement and find out what your mentee is interested in. You can ask:

- How are you getting engaged and involved on campus?
- What organizations are you interested in learning more about?
- Do you know how to get connected to those offices and opportunities?

You can check on these campus resources to learn more about what opportunities are available on campus:

- [UTM](#)
- [UTC](#)
- [UTK](#)
- [UTS](#)
- [UTHSC](#)

In addition, since it's the end of the semester, you may also want to ask your mentee to reflect:

- What were your successes this year? What are you looking forward to next semester?
- What were your challenges?
- How do you plan on staying engaged on campus and connected to community this next year?



## Career Exploration

If your student hasn't already been thinking about what career path they may want to take, now is the time to discuss potential career options. Depending on when you are meeting, the semester may be quickly ending, so it's important that your student starts thinking about how they can use their time over the summer to prepare for their final academic year and their future career. The summer would be a great time for an internship or to shadow someone in the field they are interested in going into. This is a great opportunity for students to get real-life experience about their potential career choice and narrow down job opportunities. At a minimum, it's time to start thinking about it!

Help your students begin thinking about this by asking some of the following questions:

- Why did you choose your major?
- What field of study do you want to go into?
- If it's a broad field, do you know which area you want to go into? If not, how do you plan to narrow it down?
- Have you considered doing internships? Do you know how to find them? Where have you looked? Where can you look?
- Do you know of anyone you could shadow in your field? Make a list of options and a plan for reaching out to them? (Mentors, you can offer to read their email communications to make sure it's professional. Provide tips on how to best reach out to a professional).
- What tools are available to you for job and internship searches? Have you used them? How can you prioritize using them?
- What are the benefits of doing an internship?
- How can you use this summer and the next year to prepare for your career?

Now would also be a great time to discuss how you and your mentee would like to stay in touch over the coming months. Would you like to continue meeting or communicating over the summer? How often do you plan to touch base? What support does the student need over the summer? If you haven't already, now would be a good time to exchange personal contact information for easier communication.

Make sure you tell your student how much this experience has meant to you this year and how much you have enjoyed getting to know them thus far. Now is the time to show how proud you are of their accomplishments and to celebrate them finishing their first year! That is no small feat, and you played a large role in that. Make sure you celebrate this joint accomplishment together!



## Internships

If you're an employer yourself or if you've ever had an internship, you know just how important an internship can be in helping you accomplish your future goals. Practical experience in your student's area of interest will look great on a resume and go a long way in helping them land their dream job. Many students aren't aware of this until too late, and they often look back on college and regret not participating in an internship. It's important your mentees start thinking about opportunities for internships now so they can participate in one next summer or even for a whole semester next year.

Ask them some of the following questions and use your expertise to help guide the conversation. It's okay if you don't have all the answers! UT has plenty of resources on campus where you can direct your student. It's important to just show your student that you're there to help start the conversation and to encourage them in their journey to finding an internship.

- What questions do you have on interning?
- What internships are you looking for?
- What are the benefits of interning?
- What would you want to get out of an internship?
- If you don't plan to intern, why? What is hindering you from interning?
- How can you engage in other activities that would assist in your career development?

For further discussion, you and your mentee can read [this article](#) on the importance of internships in college and discuss it together.



## Leadership and Service

Everyone has the ability and responsibility to engage in leadership as a process, advocate for social justice, and make the world a better place. Community service is a requirement to maintain the UT Promise scholarship; it is also a great learning experience for students! It is something we encourage them to engage in now so they will continue to do so as active citizens in a community.

By serving in a campus organization or with a community partner, students can consider perspectives other than their own, recognize their own leadership style, beliefs, and values, and explain the importance of voluntarily serving others to create and maintain a thriving community.

Below you will find some questions you can ask your mentee to help you begin the conversation about leadership and service:

- What service have you completed?
- Have you found an organization that you feel dedicated to serving?
- Have you volunteered with anyone that you want to commit to volunteering with regularly?
- What have you learned about yourself during this experience?
- Do you think there's a difference in service helping and fixing? Why or why not?
- How do you think service and leadership are related?
- What is leadership?
- What have you enjoyed doing on and off campus? Are you applying for any leadership positions on campus?
- What does it mean to be a servant leader?
- Leadership is not just a position. How are you practicing leadership in any area? Where have you shown responsibility? How have you influenced a person or a group?

You can also check out the video below on volunteerism and then discuss it with your student. Ask them if anything stood out, what they learned, and what's something they want to take away. Then set goals that you can both check in on to make sure your student is developing their leadership and service skills.

Video: [Volunteerism](#)



## Networking

Networking has great benefits, and it provides opportunities that you may not find on your own. While you may be aware of the benefits of networking, this concept may be new to your student. It is important that they start thinking about how they can grow their community and get connected to others in their areas of interest. You can ask your student some of the questions below to get them thinking about how they will build their network:

- What are the benefits of networking?
- How do you plan to meet others in your desired career field?
- How are you leveraging the relationships you've formed with those in your classes, community, organizations, etc.?
- What companies or individuals are you following or learning more about on social media in your field?
- What do you think your strengths are in networking?
- How can you effectively utilize these strengths?
- Is there anything that makes you nervous or excited about networking?
- What are you most looking forward to gaining from meeting new people and engaging in networking?
- How can you use tools like LinkedIn to network and find opportunities? Do you have a LinkedIn profile? Could the two of you review the profile together?

For further discussion, you and your mentee can watch the video below before your meeting and then discuss it together. Ask them what stood out, what did they learn that they didn't know before, and what's one key takeaway. Then have them make practical goals about growing their network that you can follow up with throughout your mentoring relationship.

Video: [Professional Networking: How to Add Value to Your Connections](#)



## Priority Management and Leadership Development

At this point in a student's collegiate journey, they probably know the ropes of being a college student. Many of them have also probably set goals for what they want to accomplish during the rest of their college career and maybe going out for leadership positions. Some may still not be sure what they want to invest in, and others may be so involved that they feel overwhelmed with their time commitments.

This semester is a great time to start discussing what the student wants to prioritize throughout the remainder of college. They may not be able to give their time to all the organizations they show interest in, but they may be able to devote more wholeheartedly to one, and even be a leader in that organization.

To begin the conversation about priority management, you can ask your mentee some of the following questions:

- What organizations are you involved in, whether campus related or not?
- What do you devote your time to? Academics, service, fitness, campus activities, etc.?
- Are the things that you are involved in valuable to you? How so?
- What skills are you developing through your time commitments? Social skills, leadership skills, discipline, communication, etc.?
- How are the things you are involved in setting you up for personal or professional success?
- How can you continue to invest in these groups?
- Are there any commitments you should step away from?
- If you could only choose one thing to devote your time to outside of your academics, which would you choose?
- Have you considered going out for leadership positions in these organizations? What position are your skills best suited for?
- How will you continue to build your future skills through your time commitments?

These questions should help get your student thinking about how to be proactive about their development in their current situations. In addition, feel free to watch the video below for more information and tools on gaining control of your time.

Students should take ownership over their college experience and make deliberate choices to make it what they want it to be. Encourage them to start thinking about what they want and how to get there. Let them know you are always there to help guide them, provide advice, and support them as they develop these skills that will last well beyond college.



## Resume Building and Interview Preparation

It's about time for your student to begin preparing their resume if they haven't already. If you feel comfortable doing so, we recommend asking your mentees to send them your resume in advance of this meeting. Then, you can review it and provide constructive feedback for them. If you don't feel equipped to review their resume, no worries! We have plenty of offices and staff on campus who would be happy to do so. Even if you do review it, we still ask that you talk to your student about the benefits of getting their resume reviewed more than once and by multiple people. Encourage them to find a faculty member in their major or stop by the Career Center to have it reviewed.

In addition to resume building, you can also talk to your student about interview preparation. They may have interviews as early as now for graduate school or jobs. Help them begin thinking about this process by asking some of the following questions:

- Have you begun building or revising your resume? Has anyone critiqued it?
- What skills have you learned on campus that you should showcase on your resume and highlight in a job interview?
- Are you nervous or excited about finding a job and interviewing? Why?
- What is your job search strategy?
- How are you utilizing the offices, resources, and faculty/staff on campus to prepare you for getting a job?

For even further discussion, you and your mentee can review [this article](#) on interview tips during your meeting. Ask them if anything stands out or if there's anything they want to work on improving. Then have the student set goals for how they plan to accomplish improving those skills.

With your help, we're sure they will have an awesome resume and rockstar interview skills in no time!



## Staying Connected to UT

Graduation does not mean a student's experience with UT has to end! There are many ways for students to stay involved with the University after they leave. Use this time to discuss opportunities to stay connected with their college friends, their college town, and their university.

The UT Alumni Association serves graduates by providing career services, events, networking opportunities, and lifelong learning. Encourage your student to explore all the [UT Alumni Association](#) has to offer. Many of our campuses are also looking for recent graduates and other young alumni to serve on their Young Alumni Council. This is a great opportunity for students to give back to their university!

Discuss your own experience being an alum, whether that be from UT or elsewhere! What do you do to give back to your alma mater? What's your favorite thing about serving your university? How has staying connected to your university impacted you? Help your students begin thinking about this by asking some of the following questions:

- What parts of UT would you want to stay connected with? Friends, academic college, organizations, football?
- What opportunities are you aware of to stay involved with UT?
- Do you plan to use the career services or networking opportunities offered through the Alumni Association?
- How are you feeling about leaving college? Sad, excited, nervous, expectant?
- How can you stay in touch with your friends from college?
- How often do you think you'll come back to visit? Do you plan on coming to Homecoming?
- Would you ever consider serving in a mentor role to a student like I am to you?

Now would also be a great time to discuss how you and your mentee would like to stay in touch. Would you like to keep the relationship up after college? Would you be willing to serve as a career mentor to the graduate? How often do you plan to touch base? If you haven't already, now would be a good time to exchange personal contact information.

Make sure you tell them how much this experience has meant to you and how much you enjoyed getting to know them! Now is the time to show how proud you are of their accomplishments. They graduated college! That is no small feat, and you played a large role in that. Make sure you celebrate this joint accomplishment together!





## Thinking Beyond College

At this point in a student's collegiate journey, they are beginning to think about what will come after college (if they haven't already started thinking about it). This semester, it will be time for them to apply for graduate school or begin searching for job opportunities. As you know, transitioning out of college can be daunting. As a mentor, you can encourage your mentee to start thinking about what's next and support them through the process.

To begin the conversation about "what's next," you can ask your mentee some of the following questions:

- What's your dream job?
- Have you started applying for jobs or graduate school?
- What type of environment are you looking for in a job?
- What do you want out of the city you will live in?
- Why do you want to go to graduate school? Do you want to stay at UT or attend another school? Why or why not?
- How can graduate school benefit you?
- How are you searching for job opportunities? What websites or tools are you using?
- What cities are you thinking about moving to?

Your student may ask you questions that you don't know the answer to and that's okay! Our campuses have Career Development offices that can assist your student. If there's something you are unsure about, just make sure your student knows about this campus resource and encourage them to visit there.



Visit the [UT Promise website](#) for more mentor resources. To stay up to date on important deadlines for UT Promise students, click [here](#).