



Returning to Mentor

Welcome back! Thank you for such an incredible semester in the fall! You encouraged and supported your student to help them succeed. The semester would not have been the same without you.

We are so excited to welcome you back as a UT Promise Mentor this semester. There is so much to look forward to in the remainder of the year, and we will be with you every step of the way.

Like last semester, the UT Promise Mentor Toolkit will provide monthly conversation topics for you and your mentee. While you don't solely have to use these, we believe it will help you and your student navigate the mentoring process, while also providing timely topics for your student to think about during their collegiate journey.

We recommend reviewing these resources as a reminder of best practices and tips for mentoring: ["Effective Mentoring Practices"](#). As you and your mentee reconvene, this would be a great time to discuss what worked well and what didn't last semester. Adjust your communication expectations if needed and set the standard for the relationship.

If you are a new mentor meeting your student for the first time, this is a great time to start thinking about expectations for the relationship and discuss them in your first meeting.

We appreciate all you do for the University, and we are excited to continue partnering with you on this journey.



Reconnecting and Setting New Goals

This is your first meeting back together since last semester! This is a great time to catch up and talk about what you each did over the winter break. Did you go on vacation? Did you see your family? Ask the student if the break was restful and how they finished up with their classes last semester.

The student has a whole new set of classes and experiences this semester, so there is much to discuss! Below are some questions you can ask to help guide your first conversation back after break.

- Which classes are you most excited about and most nervous about this semester?
- Ask them about what they learned last semester.
- What are you most looking forward to this semester?
- Are there any leadership positions you plan on going out for?
- Did you struggle with studying effectively?
- Did you get involved?
- Have you met many friends?
- Ask them how they plan to accomplish their goals this semester and what steps they are taking to overcome any challenges they may have previously encountered.

This is also a great time to reset expectations for your relationship and get a feel for what your student may need from you this semester. Consider the following questions:

- Did your communication methods last semester work for each of you?
- Would it be useful to communicate more?
- How can you be a beneficial resource to the student this semester?
- How can you encourage and support them?
- Are there any goals the student has that you can help them accomplish?

We are excited for you to continue working with your student this semester! While you may feel like you have the hang of mentoring after doing it for the first semester, remember you can always reach out to UT Promise (utpromise@tennessee.edu) if you need anything.



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