

YOUR ROLE AS A PMP MENTOR

As a professional mentor, you can provide the unique perspective of an “objective outsider” who may play contradictory roles – at times offering friendship and support, at other times posing tough challenges and sharing critical insights. Remember, it takes time to build a reciprocal, trusting relationship, and every mentor-mentee relationship will be unique based on the personalities, goals, and experiences of the student-mentor pair. If you and your student mentee commit the time and energy to build a solid relationship, we are confident your PMP mentoring experience will be an enjoyable and rewarding one!

As a PMP mentor, you are an invaluable resource for our students. However, you are not expected to “do it all” or be a “silver bullet” in the job or internship search. Your students have many resources available to them here, including: Leeds’ Career Connections, Campus Career Services, Student Advising, Faculty Advisors, the Leeds Alumni network, student leadership programs, and a wide range of clubs and volunteer opportunities. We encourage students to make use of all of these resources, including their PMP mentor, in preparing for a successful transition to the business world. (Refer to “Leeds-at-a-Glance” in the Resources for PMP Mentors section at the back of this Handbook for an overview of other services and programs at Leeds.)

Eligibility and Expectations

As a PMP mentor, you are asked to:

- Be willing to mentor one or two undergraduate students per academic year.
- Meet with your student(s) for at least an hour once per semester, in person or by video conference/phone, over the next two academic years (minimum guideline). More frequent informal communication is encouraged as personal schedules allow.
- Commit to being accessible and engaged for the duration of the mentoring relationship.
- Be willing to share your personal and professional experience, insights, and network with your student.
- Have at least five years of business experience beyond your undergraduate degree.
- Attend kick-off and end-of-year celebration events that gather students and mentors together (for mentors in the Denver/Boulder area).
- Be a good listener, have a sense of humor, and enjoy your mentoring experience!

Mentor Experience

While each experience will be different, this reflection from a current mentor provides insight into the potential rewards of the program, including a sense of satisfaction, inspiration, and enjoyment for students and mentors alike.

“I have been a mentor of two students for the past two years, both of whom are graduating in May. I am so sorry to see them go but so very proud of both of them! Will I sign up to be a mentor again? Absolutely! If you are wondering why, I can summarize it in two words: inspirational and rewarding.

1. *It is truly inspirational. These students are bright, energetic and eager to make a difference. It is so refreshing to meet young adults that are excited about their future and wanting to find a career in which they can fulfill their goals but at the same time contribute to future generations.*
2. *It is very rewarding. I got to know both of my students and learn about their interests and passions and discuss possible career opportunities. I was also able to connect them with other individuals in the business community, enabling each of them to secure internships during their senior year. Not only was this rewarding for me and my students, it was rewarding for the businesses that they are working for.*

If you have any doubts about this experience, don’t! If you want to reconfirm your faith in our future business and community leaders, be a Professional Mentor. It is one of the most rewarding experiences you will have.”

— Dee Perry, PMP Mentor and Former CFO, McDATA Corporation

WHO ARE YOUR STUDENTS?

All of the students in the Professional Mentorship Program are majoring in Business, with an area of emphasis in one of the following: Accounting, Finance, Marketing, or Management and Entrepreneurship. Beyond that, they represent an incredible diversity of backgrounds, experience, and aspirations.

Your student mentee is probably between 19 and 22 years old. Several are the first in their families to attend college. For some, you may be the first person that they know who is doing what they think they would like to be doing in the future and can offer them professional advice and perspective. Some may be a bit intimidated or shy and others may be more comfortable both with you and in a professional setting. They all volunteered for this program because they think it (and more specifically YOU) can help them on their path for the next two years. You can help them figure out how to make the most of this experience and have fun getting to know each other along the way!

The following two tables give you an idea of what your student may be going through and thinking about in their Junior (1st-year PMP students) or Senior (2nd-year PMP students) years – academically, personally, and professionally. For each year, we have included a range of activities, topics, and potential goals and outcomes that might be relevant to address in your role as a PMP mentor.

“This is a very strong program. The simple process of bringing together student and mentor along with the support you provide is plenty to allow for a rich experience.”

**— Brad Blackwell, Executive Vice President
and National Sales Manager, Wells Fargo Bank
Danville, CA**