The Engineering Alumni Mentor Program seeks to foster meaningful and productive one-on-one (or one-to-small group) relationships between alumni and students through the sharing of professional and life experiences. The program is centered on the dual goals of strengthening alumni connections with the School of Engineering as well as placing students on the path to success.

The program seeks engineering alumni who are 3+ years out of their bachelor degrees and students who are sophomores, juniors, and seniors. Mentoring relationships involve an initial year-long commitment that may be renewed throughout the student’s undergraduate career. Interested alumni and students are asked to complete an application specific to their role at the beginning of each fall semester. Submitted applications are then thoughtfully reviewed and participants are matched based on personal and professional commonalities. Depending on the number of students and alumni interested in the program, more than one student may be matched with each mentor.

Then, participants are notified via email and asked to construct a set of mutual expectations for their relationship. Communication between mentors and students may take place in a number of ways (e.g., phone, email, video chat, instant messaging, face-to-face meetings) based on what works best for each pair. The expectation is participants will make contact with their mentor/student at least once a month, averaging a suggested one hour of communication per month over the course of their year together (i.e., October-August).

All mentors and students are invited to attend an optional event held on campus each fall to kick off the program year—a meet and greet reception typically scheduled during Reunion/Homecoming weekend. A handbook is available online as a guiding resource to help alumni and students develop and gain maximum benefit from their mentoring relationship. Assistant Dean Burgess Mitchell serves as the primary staff contact. However, participants assume responsibility for their one-on-one (or one-to-small group) relationships.

**BENEFITS FOR MENTORS:**
- Share knowledge about your education, career path, successes and failures, and what your experiences have taught you
- Acquire experience in coaching and developing the talent of future leaders
- Increase the value of your Vanderbilt engineering degree by investing in future alumni
- Cultivate a stronger connection with the School of Engineering
- Deepen your knowledge of the current student body and campus community
- Network with other alumni participants
- Experience renewed pride and excitement for your field of work
- Gain a heightened sense of purpose and belonging

Questions? vuse-mentor@vanderbilt.edu / 615-343-8061

“Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.”

-Anonymous