

eMentoring as an extracurricular activity

Use eMentoring to enhance your students' extracurriculars. Create a lunchtime group, club or other student group.

Why? Mentors can provide a fresh perspective and offer advantages to students involved in extracurricular groups at school. Our mentors are mostly post-secondary students and many are high achievers who were – and still are! – involved in many extracurricular activities. They can provide advice on participating in extracurriculars in high school and keeping it going in post-secondary. They can also give expert advice on the focus or subject of the club. Or, start an eMentoring club!

What can mentors help with?

- Leadership: mentors can give advice to students about developing leadership skills and making their voices heard.
- Robotics, science, coding, health and other themed clubs: many of our mentors are post-secondary students who are studying in a variety of fields. They can help solve problems, give feedback and advice, and share what it's like to study and work in their field.
- Identity-focused clubs (GSA, Asian-American Club, religious clubs, etc.): we make it a priority to recruit diverse mentors who come from different racial, ethnic, cultural, and gender/sexuality backgrounds. Many of our mentors are proud of their identities and sign up hoping to impart the advice and wisdom they have gained as a young adult.

How it works

- **Logistics**
 - Tell the eMentoring staff what club you are interested in working with, we will find mentors with experience in that area.
 - Also explain to us your vision for how you'd like the mentors to engage with the students. Examples:
 - Each student has their own mentor who they consult with as part of the club. We suggest making time for students to work with their mentors during club meetings.
 - Invite different mentors to speak to your club about the club's focus or subject (e.g., for debate club have a law student share their experiences in law school).
 - The entire club has a mentor, or group of mentors, who they consult for guidance and feedback. The mentor can be an outside expert and help take on some of your work as a faculty advisor.
- **What's your role?** Help students access and engage with the program:
 - If students are doing one-on-one mentoring, ensure they have access to an internet-connected computer or device one or more times per week for at least 30 minutes to an hour. For example, help arrange for them to use the computer lab or borrow a device from the school on certain days of the week.
 - Connect regularly with the students to check-in and ensure that they are engaging with their mentors. You will likely need to be very persistent, as students often find it challenging to make time for the program, and some do not see its value. The eMentoring staff will provide progress reports every two weeks (or at the frequency of your choosing) to keep you informed.
 - Be the point-of-contact person who the eMentoring staff could reach out to if students are experiencing issues.

Create an eMentoring club

This is a great way for students to get advice and support from a mentor, while also sharing the experience with other students. Research (and our own experience) shows that a sense of community among students participating as mentees can enhance their experience and increase their engagement. One teacher told us that the excitement for mentoring is contagious, so regularly bringing students together to discuss their experiences is ideal. Here are some suggestions for your eMentoring club:

- Convene students once or twice a week for 30 minutes to an hour. They will use this time to work with their mentors.
- Consider having discussion topics for each club session. Or have the students discuss what they learned from their mentors.
- The students can also work through the activities together, or separately, as part of the club. You can have students share their deliverables and what they learned from their mentors. [Learn more about our activities on our website.](#)
- If you wish, we could arrange for the mentors to join the club live (e.g., via Zoom).

Thanks for considering how our mentors can be a part of your students' extracurricular activities! Our mentors really enjoy meeting students with similar passions, and would be thrilled to work with students in a club setting! If you would like to talk through your options or share your ideas, reach out to e.mentoring@ubc.ca.