



Academic Mentorship Program - FAQ

What is the Academic Mentorship Program?

The Academic Mentorship Program pairs senior scholars of CSS (mentors) with members of the GSC (mentees) to give mentees a chance to ask questions about life as a scholar, about shaping a career in comics studies inside and outside of academia, about a paper or proposal they're working on, and the like.

How often should Mentors and Mentees meet?

Mentors and Mentees are encouraged to set their own levels of commitment with one another, meaning that pairs may utilize this new relationship in a way that is flexible and supports each person's own needs. How often and in what form mentors and mentees meet is entirely up to each pair. Furthermore, the sorts of questions a mentee might have and what assistance a mentor might offer will differ between pairs. We do ask that all mentees be mindful of the fact that our mentors are volunteers and commonly have full time jobs within academic or alt-academic institutions and, as such, a mentor cannot fulfill the role of a graduate advisor. The first meeting is a good opportunity to talk about availability and a potential timeline of future meetings.

Who can join the Academic Mentorship Program?

Membership in the Comics Studies Society is a prerequisite for participation in the mentorship program. All members of CSS can become mentors and all members of the GSC can become mentees. Membership in the GSC is determined by the following criteria, as outlined in the new [Constitution](#) (Section 4, Articles 1-2).

When can I join the Academic Mentorship Program?

Typically, there will be two cycles of admission to the mentorship program every year, one in September and one in February.

What can I do if there is a problem with my mentor/mentee?

If there are ever any concerns related to level of support, professionalism, or conduct from either a mentor or mentee, you are encouraged to contact the GSC Member-at-Large in charge of the Mentorship Program (2023/2024: Nicole Huff, email: huffnico@msu.edu) for assistance. Alternatively, you may contact the CSS Ombudsperson (2022/2023: Andrew Kunka, email: ombuds@comicsstudies.org).