

# mentorship

## UT IRGC Mentorship Program

**Objective:** The objective of the IRGC Mentorship Program is to provide every IRG student mentee with the support they need to thrive academically, professionally, and socially. IRG contains many moving parts and many different requirements that can be difficult to understand, especially for a student new to college, UT, and/or IRG. Our hope is that having a mentor will help students feel prepared, increase their awareness of campus resources and opportunities provided by UT/the IRG department/IRGC, and find a home within the IRG community.

**Expectations of mentors:** We expect mentors to be a source of academic, professional, and social support. Mentors should have a strong understanding of and familiarity with IRG requirements and the various ways with which to meet them. Mentors will initiate meetups with their mentee at least twice a semester, regularly check up on their mentee (using whatever form is most preferable) at least once every two weeks, and be as available as possible to answer whatever questions or concerns their mentee may have.

## FAQs

### ***How long will the mentor relationship last?***

Mentors are required to initiate communication with their mentee for one (1) semester. However, mentors and mentees are encouraged to stay in contact for as long as they'd like. Mentees are always free to reach out to their mentor, even after the semester has passed.

### ***How often do I reach out to my mentee or mentor?***

If you're a mentee, this program is meant to serve you! If you're a mentor, this program is meant to be as accessible to you as possible. Mentees can reach out to their mentors as often as they'd like. General communication between mentees and mentors is up to both parties to decide. Mentors are required to schedule two in-person meetups during the semester, and to check up on their mentor at least once every two weeks.

### ***What if I'm a mentee and I have questions that my mentor can't answer? Or what if I'm a mentor and my mentee asks me about something I'm not sure about?***

Mentors are expected to have a thorough understanding of IRG and UT, but they won't know everything. That's okay! If you're a mentor and you don't know how to answer a question, reach out to the Mentorship Chair to be directed to the resources you need. Mentees are free to do the same if they feel

that they have a question that their mentor can't answer. Your Mentorship Chair and the rest of IRGC will have the resources to support you and answer your questions as well as possible.

***Why do I have to be an upperclassman to be a mentor?***

You don't necessarily need to be an upperclassman. We believe that in order to be properly equipped to support your mentor, it would be helpful to have attended UT and/or been in IRG for two years. However, there are certainly exceptions. If you're a second-year student and believe that your experience in college and IRG so far has prepared you to support a mentee, please apply!

***What should I do if I have concerns about my mentee or mentor?***

If any complication or concern should arise with your mentee or mentor, you should reach out to IRGC's Mentorship Chair, Darby Duncan at [18duncand@gmail.com](mailto:18duncand@gmail.com) as soon as possible.