

Mentoring at Metro Atlanta Seminary

Introduction To Mentoring

Welcome to mentoring at Metro Atlanta Seminary. We appreciate your willingness and availability.

The mission of Metro Atlanta Seminary is to educate, equip, and mentor students to know Christ, become gospel-centered servant-leaders, and fulfill the Great Commandment (To Love the Lord our God) as well as the Great Commission (To Go and Make Disciples) by the power of the Spirit.

The primary ways we do this is through classroom instruction, practicum experience, and a mentoring relationship.

The mentoring relationship reflects our interest in who the student is, not just in what they are learning. We are interested in who they are becoming as followers of Christ. 1 Corinthians 13 says we can have all knowledge but if we have not love, we are nothing. (1 Cor. 13:2) Therefore, we want our students to reflect the character of Christ. Though we cannot control the outcome of that (it is God's work), we look for ways to facilitate that, including mentoring. How does that happen? As a mentor, you provide a relational connection. You meet with your student, pray for them, encourage them, and if requested by the student, hold them accountable.

What makes an effective mentor? The mentor's role is to provide an environment in which the student can openly talk about their seminary experience. What is the student learning? What are they being challenged by? Are there questions they may have? The mentor wants to be "sounding board," and primarily wants to listen. The mentor allows the student to guide the conversation, though on occasion, the mentor may have to draw the conversation back to the four areas listed above.

Commitment

As a mentoring you are committing to at least one year. Typically, that is four terms (eight-weeks each) There are occasions in which a student may not enroll a specific semester, and in that case, you are not expected to mentor them at that time.

At the conclusion of the year, you may choose to end the mentoring relationship or continue as the student's mentor.

Mentoring Assignments

Twice a term (at the beginning and at the middle), you will receive assignments, via e-mail, on what is to be covered. You should prepare for each mentoring appointment by going through the assignment.

Mentoring Assessment

At the conclusion of the term, you will receive a notice to complete a brief assessment of the mentoring term. Part of the assessment will be giving the student a specific grade.

Meetings

Meetings typically will be sixty to ninety minutes long. If possible, seek to conduct those meetings in person. If not, we recommend a video call.

When meeting with your student, there will be specific areas you will touch upon. Most of these will be initiated by the student. The areas include:

- **Course Assignments** - It may be that in a specific course, one of the assignments will be for the student to interact with their mentor about subject material. This is not anything specific you need to prepare or study for.
- **Book** - Each student at MAS reads (along with their mentor) one book designated by the seminary.
- **Practicum** - Some of the programs will require practicum hours, and on occasion, you will interact with the student regarding what they are doing for their practicum.
- **Personal Issues** - In meeting with your student, personal issues may sometimes arise and you certainly can discuss.

Each time you meet, you do not have to discuss each area. However, we suggest that during the term, you touch upon the first three areas, at least once.

Confidentiality and Counseling

Personal matters discussed are confidential, between you and the student. The exception would be in the rare occurrence that a student has expressed doing harm to themselves or someone else. In discussing personal issues, the mentor is not a counselor or therapist. If the mentor perceives professional help may be needed, they can suggest a referral (for counseling) to the student. The mentor can also contact the Dean of Students for a referral. They would need to get the student's permission before contacting the Dean of Students.

First Meeting

If you and your student have not met, we suggest a “get to know you” time. It can be a meeting in which you can get acquainted. This is an opportunity just to learn about the person and their desire for a seminary education. For some, it could be over a meal. For others, who live in different areas, it may be a Zoom meeting.

In meeting, the mentor and student can discuss the expectations of the relationship. The mentor may ask the student, “*What do you hope to get out of our meeting together*”? Of course, the student may not always know, because they do not have any experience in being mentored.

You and the student should decide the best way to stay in contact. You should agree whether it be phone, e-mail, text, or a combination. Make sure you exchange contact information.

Preparing for Meetings

First, you need to go through the mentoring assignment for the Term. As mentioned, mentoring assignments will be e-mailed to you twice each Term. Second, contact your student to let them know you are looking forward to being with them. This contact is a good reminder for them to also prepare for the meeting and put it on their radar. Here’s an example:

“John: I’m looking forward to meeting with you this coming Thursday. We can discuss the book and certainly what is on your agenda. See you then.”

Prayer

As a mentor, please pray for the student. Pray about your mentor meetings. And ask the student how you can pray for them. The seminary prays for God to do a work in our student’s lives. We encourage you to pray for that, too.

