

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MENTORSHIP PROGRAM?

The mentorship experience is available to 11th and 12th grade students who:

- Have above average grades and/or are identified as gifted and talented.
- Demonstrate responsible behavior by exhibiting excellent citizenship and by maintaining good school attendance.
- Have parental approval for participation.
- Have parent approval for transportation.

HOW ARE STUDENTS SELECTED FOR THE MENTORSHIP PROGRAM?

Students complete an application and submit it to their school counselor. The application is reviewed by the high school principal, guidance counselor and/or local program coordinator who help to select the participants.

HOW ARE MENTORS SELECTED?

The county program coordinators contact prospective mentors. They welcome anyone who would like to serve in that capacity.

WHAT IF I DON'T KNOW WHICH CAREER TO EXPLORE?

The Occupational Outlook Handbook, published by the Department of Labor, profiles hundreds of occupations describing what they do, the work environment, how to become one, pay and more. You can filter by career type or salary. Check it out at <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/>

Also check out *The Undeclared Major Planning Handbook* from Minnesota State University. It gives information and worksheets for self-awareness, interest analysis, academic planning, and career preparation. <http://www.mnsu.edu/cdc/>

HOW ARE PROGRAM IMPROVEMENTS MADE?

In addition to collecting written evaluation forms from students, mentors and teachers, the local and/or county program coordinator may make on-site observations of the mentorship.

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO IS INTERESTED IN BECOMING A MENTOR?

We are always happy to learn of professionals interested in sharing their expertise with a high school student. Please contact a gifted coordinator at the number listed below.

Licking County
Educational Service Center
Office of Gifted Education
145 North Quentin Road
Newark, Ohio 43055

A VITAL LINK



Making a
difference
together

The Licking County Educational Service Center (LCESC) offers and encourages shared services among districts to provide quality and efficiency. By employing people in a wide variety of roles, the ESC can offer shared programs and resources the individual districts cannot financially support on their own. The LCESC is guided by our goal of *Making a Difference Together*, to foster collaboration and cooperation among the districts in Licking County. The Mentorship Program is one example of the shared services offered. We value our trusted and supportive relationship with our districts so that we continue to be that *Vital Link*.

Mentorship Program

Sponsored by
Licking County
Educational Service Center
Office of Gifted Education



WHAT IS A MENTORSHIP?

A mentorship is a learning partnership between a student and an adult professional.

The mentorship experience is a blended-learning experience with a combination of face-to-face class time, online assignments, and on-site learning opportunities at the mentor's place of business. Students who successfully complete the course are granted one-half unit of high school credit.

HOW DOES THIS WORK?

A junior or senior identifies a career area to study in-depth and is matched with an adult professional in the selected field. All the county students meet to review the expectations of the program and then contact their mentors to schedule a time to meet. The student and mentor decide on an individual instructional plan which will guide the student toward a realistic understanding of the demands of the profession.

IS THE EXPERIENCE GRADED?

This is a pass/fail course, however, as with any class, students must complete the expected assignments and turn in quality work.

WHO EVALUATES THE STUDENT'S PERFORMANCE?

- The local program coordinator and the county program coordinator will monitor and record the student's progress.
- A certificated staff member from the student's home school will evaluate the student's final mentorship project.
- The mentor will also monitor the student's performance and complete an evaluation.

WHAT ARE THE STUDENT'S RESPONSIBILITIES IN A MENTORSHIP?

- Commit to the mentorship experience. The program comes first before job, extracurricular, or vacations. Exceptions are made when conflicts can be worked out well in advance.
- Arrange transportation to and from the mentorship site.
- Help in the business (as much as possible.)
- Confer with the mentor to decide on objectives to achieve during this experience.
- Conduct him/herself in an exemplary manner while at the mentorship site. Remember the mentor is volunteering time to spend with you.
- Complete all on-line assignments by the due date.
- Communicate with the gifted coordinator or school counselor should problems develop in the experience.
- Be responsible for assignments and material covered in his/her scheduled classes due to mentorship participation.
- Maintain above average grades while taking part in the mentorship.
- Design and complete a project related to the mentorship experience. The project should answer a question or questions of interest to the student and result in a creative product.
- Attend all scheduled seminars.
- Complete a self-evaluation at the end of the mentorship.

WHEN DOES A MENTORSHIP OCCUR?

Mentorships are offered on a semester basis for one-half unit of credit per semester. A student may choose to pursue one or more mentorships during his/her junior and senior years. A student participant must have his/her parent's approval.

*****SPECIAL NOTES*****

The student cannot be financially compensated for his/her time in the work place during the mentorship.

Situations may arise which necessitate the termination of a mentorship study. Withdrawal procedures and forms must be completed and submitted by the drop date.

WHAT TIME COMMITMENT DOES A MENTORSHIP REQUIRE?

For one-half unit of credit a student will spend 60 hours on activities related to the mentorship program. A total of at least 20 contact hours must be spent with the mentor during the semester. The student also will attend one all day seminar and one two hour seminar during the semester at the ESC. A small group meeting will be held briefly at each school to discuss the students' experiences.

WHY SHOULD I PARTICIPATE?

- Students learn about the specific requirements of the career first-hand—both positives and negatives.
- Students discover if the career fits their personality type and life goals.
- The experience can be listed on college and scholarship applications and resumes.
- Before spending money taking courses or trainings, students learn if they would enjoy the type of work expected in their chosen career field.