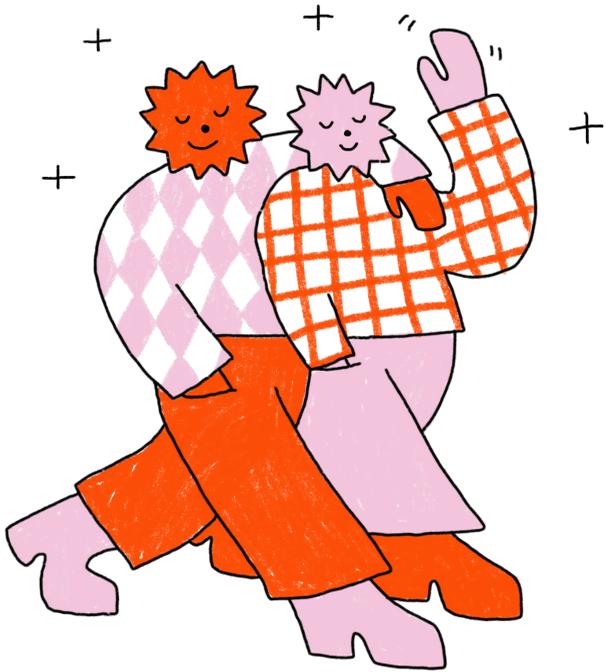




### **MENTORSHIP IS HERE!**

You hold in your hands the PSUGD Mentorship guide for Mentors and Mentees, a brief resource containing a handful of tips, tricks, & FAQs. Thank you for engaging. Let's do this!

**Mentorship**



# KEY THERE!



## SO... WHAT IS MENTORSHIP ANYWAYS?

Great question! Mentorship is a way for Sophomores to get help, feedback, and support from Juniors & Seniors in preparing their portfolios for the Review. It is also a way for those who have passed the Review to give back to the community and cheerlead those coming after them. This little booklet is meant to act as a brief guide for any students wanting to get the most out of the Mentorship program at PSUGD.

## HOW DO I SIGN UP?

There are two separate forms to use depending on whether you want to be a Mentor or a Mentee. Please use the links below:

**MENTORS:** [tinyurl.com/psumentor](https://tinyurl.com/psumentor)

**MENTEES:** [tinyurl.com/psumentee](https://tinyurl.com/psumentee)

## HOW DO I GET MATCHED?

Unless you specify your desired Mentor or Mentee, you will be matched based on two primary criteria. First, we attempt to match people based on their general scheduling availability. Second, if possible, we match Mentors and Mentees based on your self-elected areas of strength or weakness. *Remember, it is not a perfect system, so don't expect to meet your design soulmate!* Instead, come at it with humility and a desire to help or be helped.

## TIPS FOR

# MENTORS!



**1 APPRECIATE YOUR MENTEE**  
You know more than anyone what it's like to be in their shoes. You are not here to judge them, you are here to support them. Always remember that you were in their place once and how much your own support team helped you!

**2 COMMUNICATION IS KEY**  
Whether through email, in person, or through text, make sure that you communicate clearly with your Mentee. Good communication is key in any kind of relationship with other people and will directly affect how successful the experience is.

**3 SET CLEAR EXPECTATIONS**  
Communicate your availability with your Mentee. Set parameters for how and when you meet. If you don't want them to text you every single idea they have, tell them up front. Make your boundaries clear. You should be just one of their supporters in this process.

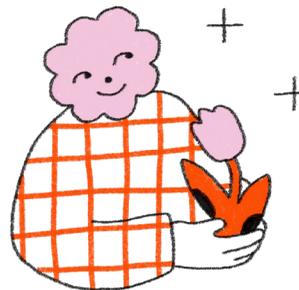
**4 SHARE YOUR WORK**  
Don't be afraid to show your portfolio! Regardless of how you currently feel about your portfolio, it will help your mentee to see how you went about compiling your work. This is a great tool to help with goal setting. Help your Mentee feel like they are capable of doing this!

**5 HELP THEM GET INVOLVED**  
Let your Mentee know about any sessions or events going on in the PSUGD program. Invite them to Show & Tell, connect them with other designers, remind them about the resources available to them as a student in the program.

**6 SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE**  
You know what your Mentee is going through. You know the sleep deprivation, the stress, the self-questioning. How did you cope? What would you have done differently? This is your chance to share it with someone who needs it!

**7 MEET THEM AT THEIR LEVEL**  
Everyone starts out with varying degrees of skill. Just because something may have come easily to you doesn't mean that it will to another designer. Some people were born pencil-in-hand, some started drawing at 30. Be willing to meet your Mentee at their current skill level.

**8 DON'T SELL YOURSELF SHORT!**  
A lot of Mentors report that they don't feel like their work is good enough or that they don't know enough to be a good mentor. Let's work on burying that deep in the ground. Like, six feet down. You made it through the review! You have proven to the entire faculty that you have the capabilities and skill to move forward in the program. Be proud of that!



*Haven't signed up yet?!*  
**REGISTER TO BE A MENTOR**  
[tinyurl.com/psumentor2019](https://tinyurl.com/psumentor2019)

## TIPS FOR

# MENTEES!



**1 THANK YOUR MENTOR!**  
Your Mentor is taking time out of their busy schedule to be a part of your support system. Don't take that for granted. You don't need to bake them cookies or anything, but at least make sure to tell them thank you (I'm sure they wouldn't mind cookies though).

**3 OWN YOUR WORK**  
This is your design work, not your Mentor's. Be proactive in putting in every ounce of effort you have. If you feel stuck or like you've hit a wall, seek out your Mentor's assistance again. Remember, your Mentor is just one part of your support system, so don't be afraid of asking others too!

**2 COMMUNICATION IS KEY**  
How well you communicate with your Mentor will have a direct impact on how much you get out of the Mentorship experience. Be proactive in requesting feedback, asking questions, figuring out times to meet, etc. Just don't over do it; your Mentor has a life too!

**4 COME PREPARED**  
Get the most out of meeting with your Mentor by coming to them fully prepared for feedback. They cannot read your mind (sorry), so print revisions, have typeface options ready to show, prepare color variations, etc. They cannot give you feedback on something you haven't done, so do it ahead of time!

**5 GET INVOLVED**  
There are a plethora of events and activities and resources available to you as a PSUGD student. Go to Show & Tell, reach out to designers in the program you look up to, meet with advisers and teachers you don't yet know. Get yourself connected and dive in!

**7 ASK GOOD QUESTIONS**  
Make sure that as you prepare your work you ask the right questions. Asking your Mentor if they think something is good or if they like it is not going to provide very helpful feedback. Instead, opt for questions like "I'm trying to convey (x). Is this typeface helping that goal?" Speaking about your work can be scary but it's an essential part of growing as a designer.



**6 DON'T PROCRASTINATE**  
Make a schedule early on and stick to it! If you are struggling to figure out how to create a schedule, use the Sophomore Portfolio Guide as a reference. The timetable laid out in that guide is a great place to start. Start early to finish strong!

**8 BELIEVE IN YOURSELF!**  
Seriously. This is really important. You have people, like your Mentor, who are there to help you succeed as best they can. But you have to be bold and courageous and put in the hard work. That alone won't guarantee that you pass the review, but your chance for success is astronomically higher if you believe that you can do it. Negative self-talk leads us toward defeat. Let's bury it.

*Haven't signed up yet?!*

**REGISTER TO BE A MENTEE:**  
[tinyurl.com/psumentee2019](http://tinyurl.com/psumentee2019)



### **HOW DO I FORMAT/SEND/PRINT FILES FOR CRITIQUE?**

When possible, print! Test out paper and print colors at the same time. When sending digital work, explain the size, give some context, and send a PDF or image file.

### **HOW DO I SET UP A MEETING WITH MY MENTOR/MENTEE?**

Communicate! Come prepared to make the most of your time—even a 15 minute meeting is valuable. Some good meeting places include the Creative Suite, library + study rooms, and coffee shops.

### **CAN I GET MORE PEOPLE TO CRITIQUE MY WORK?**

Absolutely! Don't let your mentor be your only contact for critique. Although they might be awesome, they cannot possibly give you all the feedback necessary for a well rounded, successful portfolio.

### **WHAT RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE TO ME?**

- **Faculty advisors:** one of your most important resources! Check the advising posters or go to [psu.gd](http://psu.gd) to schedule an appointment.
- **Info Sessions:** all Sophomores are required to attend one info session. Look out for announcement in Spring about schedule.
- **Portfolio Review Guide:** a handy printed guide that is like a master to-do list for the review (also available on [psu.gd](http://psu.gd)).
- **Social Media:** follow @fogd and @psugd on Instagram. Join the Friends of Graphic Design Facebook group. Subscribe to the PSUGD newsletter at [psu.gd/sign-up-for-our-mailing-list/](http://psu.gd/sign-up-for-our-mailing-list/)
- **A+D Projects Mentorship Team:** more questions about Mentorship? Email us at [psumentorship@gmail.com](mailto:psumentorship@gmail.com).