

HSA Mentor Club

Partner Information

Personal, long-term mentoring from top Harvard students.

About

The HSA mentor club connects Harvard undergraduates with middle and high school students to establish long-term relationships promoting student growth and achievement. With room for flexibility and a library of explorative topics, mentors strive to support mentees however possible, whether that's helping on a Pre-Calculus assignment, practicing for a job interview, or advising on the college selection process. Guiding mentee growth, promoting accountability, and building confidence, the HSA Mentor Club is a premier accelerator for an international community of motivated, high-potential students.

Goals

The HSA Mentor Club is oriented around four key goals:

1. To build strong relationships between Harvard student mentors and high schoolers navigating the trials and opportunities of pre-college education, extracurriculars, career exploration, and more.
2. To democratize access to the mentorship opportunities that help Harvard students reach the top tier of educational and career success.
3. To help high school students navigate big-picture questions as they discern their goals and future plans.
4. To create strong, longitudinal networks of accountability that keep aspiring students on track to meet and exceed their goals.

What should a mentee expect?

Harvard students are surrounded by mentors, both formal and informal. For example, first year students have their Peer Advising Fellow, Proctor, First Year Advisor, and Resident Dean in addition to class, concentration, extracurricular, and workplace mentors, all dedicated to holding them accountable, advising on tough decisions, and promoting positive, consistent character, academic, and career growth. Networks of accountability like this are key to building success in both educational and career environments, and our Mentor Club is designed around this proven model.

Members of the HSA mentor club can expect to meet one-hour per week with their mentor. Sessions are highly flexible, with mentors ready to tackle mentorship fundamentals including life skills, goal accountability, and personal development in addition to helpful side-topics in the areas of tutoring and college/test prep.

Organized around flexibility, our mentors are there to be your personal Harvard student.

Standard Session Breakdown (very flexible):

- *Chatting / catch up*
- *Discuss student questions or conversation points.*

- *Update on goals and important upcoming events.*
- *Conversation on focus topic.*
 - *Mentor draws from both personal experience and HSA Tutoring's library of proprietary workshop curriculum.*
- *Recap session, overview coming week, and agree on focus topic for next meeting.*

Focus Topics

Focus topics are the special areas of interest that mentors and mentees can choose to explore during a session. A list of example topics is provided below, but mentor pairs are encouraged to choose whatever subjects they find most interesting and worthwhile. Mentors happily accommodate student requests.

(I) indicates subjects oriented towards only international mentees.

- American Culture (I)
- American history (I)
- American literature (I)
- Being a team-player
- Building self-confidence
- Business and idea generation
- Career advice
- College advice, coaching, and practice (all areas of preparation: application, interview, testing, essay, etc.)
- College majors
- Creative development
- Current events
- Developing a growth mindset
- Developing leadership skills
- Education in the U.S. (I)
- Effective communication
- Effective learning tips
- Effective studying skills
- Establishing principles and values
- Finding internships and meaningful opportunities
- Setting goals
- Good decision-making
- Happiness
- Ice breaking and getting to know strangers
- Importance of collaboration
- Importance of cross-cultural communication
- Intersection of Chinese and American culture (I)
- Life advice
- Life after college
- Life at Harvard
- Resume and cover letter creation

- Sports in the U.S. (I)
- Surviving cultural differences (I)
- The 50 states (I)
- Time management
- Tips for public speaking and presenting

Example Focus Topics for 12-week schedule

1. Introductions, background, hopes for mentorship, goals and values, establishing schedule
2. Setting goals
3. Building self confidence
4. Time management
5. [Mentee Request] Read and revise important History paper, discuss analytical writing strategies
6. Job resume and cover letter
7. Study tips for the SAT
8. College advice (focus on where to apply, when, and how to maximize outcome)
9. Writing a college essay
10. College major review (interest in Philosophy)
11. Leadership development
12. Building habits for lasting happiness