

Directions for Finding a Mentor

1. Identify specifically why you want a mentor:
 - Why do you want a mentor?
 - What do you hope a mentor will help you learn and do?
2. Identify what, specifically, you want in a mentor.
 - What kind of mentoring do you hope this person will provide?
 - What do you hope your mentoring will look like?
 - What background, education, or experience do you want your mentor to have?
3. Use your personal and professional contacts to help you find a mentor.
 - Be thorough and creative. Ask everyone from your best friend to your human resources department to the author who wrote your favorite book.
4. Ask questions.
 - Call your prospective mentors, introduce yourself, and ask them one or two questions. That will help you move forward on your vision even if this mentor isn't a good fit.
5. Explore the possibilities.
 - If you get a positive response, ask your prospective mentor if he or she would be willing to be a resource for you as you continue your learning.

If you take these steps consistently with a variety of people, the right mentor will emerge and you will end up naturally developing a longer term mentoring relationship.