

Undergraduate Mentor Program Criteria

The Harkey Institute for Entrepreneurial Studies is committed to providing our undergraduate students with exceptional mentorship from experienced professionals in the entrepreneurship domain. To ensure a high-quality **mentor program**, we have established the following criteria for individuals interested in becoming mentors:

1. Professional Experience:
 - Extensive experience in entrepreneurship, business development, or industry-specific expertise relevant to startups and small businesses.
 - Proven track record of successful entrepreneurial ventures or leadership roles within established companies.
2. Mentoring/Teaching Experience:
 - Previous experience mentoring or coaching students, entrepreneurs, or professionals in a formal or informal setting.
 - Familiarity with effective teaching methods and a willingness to share knowledge and insights with undergraduate students.
3. Location and Affiliation:
 - Preference will be given to mentors based in the United States, particularly those located in Texas, Austin, or alumni of the University of Texas at Austin.
 - International applicants must demonstrate a deep understanding of the startup ecosystem in the United States and the ability to provide valuable guidance to students in the American entrepreneurial landscape.
4. Commitment and Availability:
 - Ability to dedicate at least 2 hours a month (4 – 30-minute sessions) to the mentor program.
 - Regularly update calendar to reflect availability for students to access.
5. Communication and Interpersonal Skills:
 - Excellent communication and interpersonal skills, with the ability to effectively convey complex concepts and provide constructive feedback.
 - Strong active listening skills and the capacity to build rapport with students from diverse backgrounds.
6. Passion for Entrepreneurship and Student Development:
 - Genuine enthusiasm for entrepreneurship and a desire to inspire and support the next generation of entrepreneurs.
 - Commitment to fostering personal and professional growth in undergraduate students through mentorship and guidance.

Interested professionals who meet these criteria are encouraged to apply for the mentor program by completing the **Professional Engagement Form** first. Successful applicants will undergo a thorough screening process, including reference checks and interviews, before being selected as mentors.

Please note that due to the high demand for our mentor program, not all applicants may be chosen as mentors. However, we encourage those not selected to explore other involvement opportunities with the Harkey Institute for Entrepreneurial Studies.