

**STUDIES IN MINISTRY MINOR
MENTORING PROGRAM
TIPS FOR SUCCESS**

1. **Be committed and available.**
2. **Practice active, respectful listening.** Be slow to speak and quick to listen. Allow the student to vent feelings, then provide objective feedback.
3. **Be honest and vulnerable.** Do not act as though you have all the answers. Allow the student to understand that all people experience insecurities and/or have feelings of inadequacy at times.
4. **Demonstrate unconditional acceptance.**
5. **Share ideas and provide resources.**
6. **Avoid criticism or giving too much advice.**
7. **Encourage and inspire.**
8. **Set goals.** Help the student set personal goals and keep him/her accountable.
9. **Pray daily and guide spiritually.** Provide perspective on how the student can develop growth and depth in his/her Christian walk. Remind the student often that you are praying for him/her. This will mean a great deal to the student and is one of the most important things that you can do!
10. **Be creative!** Go out for lunch, to a museum, exhibit, basketball game, nature preserve, etc. Introduce him/her to someone whose career interests the student. Send cards on holidays and birthdays or deliver a “care package” or encouraging note!

(Taken from “Guidelines to Mentoring at Calvin College”)