



The Carlson School of Management seeks alums in the business community to mentor undergraduate students this fall. Mentors are advisors to students in the Impact Lab, a required experiential program serving clients with real-world problems.

A significant contribution of mentors is serving as a safe person for students to bring questions to and to be able to respond with stories (both successful and less-than-successful) from their own careers. Coaching and project materials will be provided to mentors by the course instructors. Mentors are guides and a professional voice: helping the team to move their planning and execution process, ensuring they are framing the problem correctly, and following through. Being a professional voice may include facilitating conversations, providing advice, and acting as a stakeholder for roadmaps, updates, and share-outs.

MENTOR COMMITMENT

- Mentor a team of 4-5 students who will work as a group throughout the semester.
- Meet virtually with the student group via 30-minute Mentor Calls every other week throughout the semester. (Eight times total). Note: This commitment is to meet eight times with the group, not individual meetings with each member.
- Attend virtual onboarding meeting, which will cover curriculum and course details.

IDEAL MENTOR

No ideal mentor exists; students respond to various backgrounds, personalities, and communication styles. We seek diverse mentors from every background and in every phase of their careers. Broadly we are looking for mentors who will:

- Model an approachable attitude.
- Bring the diverse experience and real-world examples of success and failure from their careers to the problem-solving process.
- Help a group of intelligent but inexperienced business students develop a methodology of Identifying the problem, analyzing the issue, and delivering compelling recommendations while holding accountable to follow-through and deadlines.
- Ask challenging questions and help to reframe the problem or rework the solution if needed.

Mentor applications open in June 2023 at <https://z.umn.edu/ImpactLab>. The deadline to apply for Fall 2023 school year is Friday, August 11, 2023, though applicants for Spring 2024 will continue to be accepted. Contact Ameer McDonald, Impact Lab Managing Director, at amcdonal@umn.edu with any questions.