

Accessing USC's Trojan Network

USC has alumni across the world and in every industry imaginable. Reaching out to alumni is a great way to build connections, make informed decisions and learn from fellow Trojans. Engaging with alumni has never been easier thanks to the [Trojan Network](#) platform, which allows Trojans to gain insights on topics, such as:

- Academia vs. Industry
- Career/Industry Trends
- Critique of CV/Resume
- Job Shadowing
- Mock Interviews
- Networking/Informational Interviews
- Taking advantage of time in school
- Work-Life Balance
- Applying for graduate/professional school
- Choosing a major
- Gender and Sexual Identity
- Locating summer housing
- Navigating PhD programs
- Parenting vs. Career
- Transitioning to life after school
- Workplace issues

Mentorship Best Practices

Mentorship serves as a guiding relationship where two people share experiences, outlooks, and knowledge. Both individuals will learn new ideas and skills, resulting in more informed perspectives. Mentorships can be long lasting, and you should consider connecting with your mentor throughout life, not just a semester or academic year. The USC Career Center recommends the following:

1.

Recognize Mentorship Benefits:

- Identify and achieve your career and professional goals
- Gain industry skills and insights
- Develop your self-confidence and learn to effectively advocate for yourself in challenging situations

2.

Identify Supportive Mentors:

- Trojan Network (individual contacts or through formal “Programs”)
- Academic Schools/[USC LinkedIn Groups](#)
- [USC Alumni Association Events](#)

3.

Define Your Expectations Early:

- Be professional and accountable
- Determine the best method to communicate with your mentor
- Identify (in advance) how often you want to communicate with one another and consider scheduling future dates/times in advance
- Follow through on meetings, deadlines, and other plans to show reliability
- Be open to new ideas and advice

4.

Be a Scholarly & Courageous (SC) Trojan:

- T – Tune in: Give the person your undivided intention
- R – Resourceful: Do your research on the industry or field
- O – Offer Gratitude: It is always great to show your thanks
- J – Jumpstart the Conversation: Mentorship starts with you
- A – Authentic: Be yourself when connecting with your mentor
- N – Nourish your connections: Reach out regularly to continue your mentorship!

5.

Review Additional Resources to illustrate long-term impact:

- [The Importance of Mentors](#) (one-minute Video)
- [The Value of a Mentor](#) (Article)