Engage Mentor Experience Expectations

The purpose of the mentoring experience is to give a student the opportunity to be guided by an experienced faculty member in reflecting on the knowledge, skills, and abilities they have gained at MTSU.

The experience takes the place of the fourth class a student must complete to qualify for the Senior Distinction award. Just as all Engage classes involve students in developing a reflective signature assignment that allows them to make connections across learning experiences, the mentor experience should result in a thoroughly developed and polished reflective ePortfolio presentation (created in Microsoft Sway) that benefits from the faculty member's guidance. This ePortfolio is more than a program requirement; it is an invitation for the student to articulate who they are as an aspiring professional to prospective graduate school admissions committees or employers. The faculty mentor can help the student make the leap from discussing only what they have learned to reframing their learning experiences as evidence of their career competencies.

The faculty member and student are expected to:

- Hold an initial meeting
    - Get to know each other by discussing scholarly interests
    - Discuss the student's professional goals
    - Identify 1 or more beyond-the-classroom experiences* the student could pursue this semester in pursuit of their professional goals and discuss in their ePortfolio
    - Review the expectations for Engage Senior Distinction ePortfolio submissions
    - Develop a timeline for completion of work and schedule additional meetings
- Meet to discuss a developed draft of the ePortfolio project
    - The student explains which of the NACE Career Competencies they elected to highlight in their ePortfolio
    - The student shares their thoughts on what is working well in the ePortfolio as well as challenges they encountered
    - The faculty member suggests strategies and offers advice about how to improve the ePortfolio
- Meet to discuss the final version of the ePortfolio
    - This is a great opportunity for the student to practice discussing their career goals and what they can offer a prospective employer with someone in their field of study

    - The faculty member offers advice and suggestions for the student's continued professional development
- After the Meeting
    - The faculty member assesses the ePortfolio using the provided rubric, sharing their assessment and thoughts on the experience with Engage by emailing Julie.Myatt@mtsu.edu and Alexis.Denton@mtsu.edu.

Additionally, the student is expected to:

- Review the NACE Career Competencies and chose 2 or 3 they can use to discuss their MTSU learning experiences in ways that would speak to a prospective employer or graduate program.

*Qualifying beyond-the-classroom experiences could include:

- Guest speaker visits pertaining to the student's major or career goals
- On-campus conferences (both the Holocaust Studies Conference and the Women's & Gender Studies Conference will occur in spring)
- Scholars Week presentations
- An internship the student is completing in the semester they are being mentored
- Attend an event at the Career Development Center
- Student events sponsored by Engage (we'll have one in April specifically on using the ePortfolio to communicate with prospective employers)
- A peer tutoring session with the Engage GA. Peer tutoring is available by appointment. To schedule an appointment, please click here.