

Gator to Gator UF CJC Coaching Program

Gator to Gator is a program from the University of Florida College of Journalism and Communications. The program pairs graduating CJC students with alumni for a virtual coaching session.

The Coach's Role

Each coach commits to a one-time virtual coaching session with a graduating CJC student. The coach would answer questions from the student and provide advice on the current opportunities in the field. The session would be 30 to 60 minutes. Volunteers may coach more than one student.

The goals of the coaching session are to help CJC students identify what they can do now to prepare for the sudden shifts and challenges in the job market, to connect them to the CJC Gator Network and to explore possible leads for externships and jobs.

Coaching Tips

We appreciate you taking your time to provide your advice and expertise to CJC students. To help create the most beneficial environment for a successful session, please review the tips below.

Connecting

Schedule the coaching session for a time when you won't have other distractions or interruptions. This will allow for a focused exchange between you and the student. Connect via video conferencing, if possible, to allow for a more engaging session.

Introductions

Start the session off with a brief background about you, your current role and your areas of expertise. This will allow the student to adjust their questions to fit your experience. Next, ask the student to share a bit of their background. For example, why they chose their degree, what area of the field they are hoping to work, what their current situation is. This will give you insight into how to focus the session.

Decorum

Ensure the conversation is respectful and compassionate. Students will appreciate your support during this challenging time. At no time should there be any use of profanity, aggressive volume, disrespectful slurs, or insensitive/inappropriate jokes or comments. Please be dressed appropriately and be aware of your camera angles during the session.

Time

Manage the time to ensure the student's most pressing questions can be addressed in the time you have available.

Follow Up

Send an email after your session with any resources you referenced during the call. This also is an opportunity to share job leads or other connections that might be beneficial. Any communication after the sessions will be initiated at the discretion of the CJC student and volunteer coach.

Questions

If you have any questions about the coaching program or would like information about how to hire CJC students, please contact Talia Lopez at careers@jou.ufl.edu.

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