Below are a few sample questions to help you kick start a mentoring relationship. These are not required questions! The first conversation can be the hardest part of a mentorship, however, once the ice is broken you will quickly discover how much you have in common, and that rapport will foster a more meaningful professional relationship.

QUESTIONS TO ASK A MENTOR

• Where are you originally from?
• What did you study while you were at Chapman?
• What do you wish you did, but didn’t get the chance to do while you were at Chapman?
• What initially attracted you to your current role/career pursuit?
• What inspires you to keep moving forward?
• If you could go back and change anything about your career, or give yourself advice, what would you do or say?
• What news outlets or websites do you utilize to keep up with your industry?
• Have you had a mentor in your career? If yes, do you have advice for how I can make the most of our connection?
• Going forward, what is the best way to reach you (phone, email, send a meeting invitation, etc.)?

QUESTIONS TO ASK A MENTEE

• Where are you originally from?
• What made you decide to apply and attend Chapman?
• Are/were you part of any clubs on campus?
• Do you have a sense for what your next professional step will be?
• What is your dream job and role? If you don’t have a dream job, what a few ideal traits / duties / elements you want in a role?
• What made you sign up for the mentorship program? How can I help you most?