

ASQ Mentoring Program

Protégé Role and Responsibilities

As the protégé, you have the opportunity to work with a mentor in your industry. The mentor can provide wisdom, advice, and support as you move through your career. Your responsibility to the relationship is to remain open to the communications, feedback, and sharing that your mentor provides. You will need to be active in seeking information, arranging communications, and applying the lessons learned to your own career and professional development.

Prior to introducing yourself to a potential mentor, consider the following:

- What is your current stage of professional development?
- What are your strengths?
- What are your weaknesses?
- What have been your professional successes?

In what areas do you continue to struggle?

- Where do you see yourself professionally now?
- Where do you see yourself professionally five years from now?
- How do you think that a mentor can help you achieve those goals?
- Who are your role models?
- If there is one area or skill that you would like to improve on, what would it be?

Before beginning the mentoring relationship, establish your expectations of the mentoring program, including:

- What skills or traits would your ideal mentor have?
- How would you like to interact with a mentor?
- What is your schedule or time frame for this relationship?
- What milestones would you like to reach as you work towards a goal?
- How will you share feedback with your mentor on your successes or areas of difficulty?
- Can you engage, learn, and separate from this relationship in one full year?

After reviewing these ideas individually, share them with your mentor. Knowing what you would like to work on will help you and your mentor guide the relationship and its progress.

Additional responsibilities of the protégé include:

- Setting up the meetings, calls, e-mail dialogues, or other communications
- Setting the purpose and goals for the interactions
- Communicating your needs to the mentor in advance so he or she can prepare
- Making sure that the mentor is provided with any additional information or background information that may assist in helping you