The CS15 Mentorship Program

Welcome to CS15! Hopefully, you have signed-up to participate in the mentorship program. We see the program as student-agnostic (meaning that it is not tailored to address a specific student experience, but rather augment *any* student experience) and because of this, really believe that every student would benefit from having a mentor! The CS department can often feel abstract and unfamiliar to new students in CS and the role of the CS15 mentor is to alleviate as many barriers-to-entry as possible with a friendly "in" into the department.

Your Mentor

A current member of the CS15 TA staff will be assigned as your mentor. If you do not indicate any identities that you would like to be matched with a mentor on, your mentor will be a random assignment. If you indicate certain identities, to the best of our ability (and resources), we will assign you to a mentor who holds the same or similar identities.

Expectations

You should expect your mentor to reach out to you in a timely manner from when you are assigned. They are a resource for you to ask questions or advice. Your mentor will be able to answer and address these questions or concerns themselves or will point you to the right resources if they are not personally equipped to answer.

For example

I have a lot of trouble keeping track of all the information while in lecture, but find it hard to take notes on Computer Science. How did you keep up with course material? Did you take notes in lecture?

I am checking out the course catalog for next semester, and wondering what classes you'd recommend in tandem with CS16?

Mentors are **not** resources for course-related content or anything project-specific. Do not ask your mentor about a bug or about not understanding slide 78 from yesterday's lecture. These are perfect hours questions! Your mentor is a student too, who is already holding weekly TA hours. Mentoring is by no means, on any account, off-the-clock TA hours.

Please note that the formal responsibilities of your mentor do not extend further than this, however, we anticipate certain mentor and mentee pairings establishing reliable, trusted relationships, and encourage meeting in person to get to know each other better if both TA and

student are comfortable, willing and have the time. (But this should not be an expectation or obligation)

This is the second year of the CS15 Mentorship Program, and because of this we are especially looking for feedback and recommendations. Please fill out this [anonymous form](#) at any point during the semester to help us improve the program!

Furthermore, we want every student and TA to feel safe, comfortable and protected in participating in this program. If there is *ever* a concern or something doesn't feel right, reach out immediately to the HTAs (cs0150headtas@lists.brown.edu), and we will work to solve and mediate.