

CVIL Mentoring

What should I do with my life? What are my gifts? How can I best use them to serve the common good? What's the best major/career for me? These are all big questions and sometimes it helps to have a guide, mentor, or conversation partner to walk with us as we wrestle with the questions. They don't answer the questions for us; they just help us by making space for the conversation and being there when we need them.

Simpson students are invited to apply for a small grant to be used in partnership with a faculty or staff member for the purpose of facilitating intentional conversations about life directions, meanings and choices. The money is to be used for meals, books and other resources or activities (concerts, movies, plays, etc.) that can enhance both the pleasure and the productivity of these conversations. The mentoring relationship will require you to meet a small number of times during the academic year and to complete simple evaluation/reflection forms at the end of the year. The policies and procedures of the employee and student handbooks remain in effect during these times.

The Center for Vocation and Integrative Learning (CVIL) has a list of faculty and staff/administrators who have been involved with the Faculty and Staff Advising process and who have expressed a willingness to partner with a student for these conversations. If you are awarded a grant, we will guide you toward one of these people whom you will invite to be your conversation partner. We are also open to your suggestions for a mentor. You and your partner will then join with others for an introductory meeting. During this time, we will help guide you in planning future activities.

Faculty, staff and administrators may also start the process to apply for a grant if they identify a student who might be interested in such conversations. Perhaps an advisee or work study student has expressed an interest in vocational conversations beyond the mundane. In such an instance the faculty or staff member should invite the student to apply for a grant. The funds may be used to spend some time over food or a fun event away from campus in order to get to know each other better and to talk about the big questions that concern us all.

Assessment of the program will involve submission of receipts and a brief reflective essay for both the student and mentor. If you are open to these expectations, please complete the following form:

CVIL Mentoring Application

Name: _____ Date: _____

Class: _____ Major (if known): _____

Cell phone number _____

Preferred contact (circle all that apply): Simpson eMail; txt; Facebook; voicemail;

other: _____

Will you be on an international study program during the year? _____

If so, which term? _____

1. Briefly describe your current sense of calling or vocation with regard to life goals or special talents and interests, including those you may not yet have formally explored. How will you use these to serve others?

2. How might a mentor or conversational partner from the faculty or staff be helpful to you as you seek to discern your vocation?

3. You are invited to name up to three administrators/faculty/staff members with whom you would like to spend some informal time. Please understand that CVIL staff cannot guarantee a match with any specific person. If you are selected, an alternate name or names might be suggested to you.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____