Open conversations with your mentee:

Conducting open-ended conversations with your mentee can engage both of you in a dialogue that promotes rapport building and trust as well as helps you to gather information on the student’s goals.

Often we can find ourselves asking closed ended questions which usually only require a ‘yes’ or ‘no’ answer. These usually start with phrases such as ‘Did you’, ‘When’, ‘Do you want to’, ‘Will you’, ‘have you’, etc.

With open-ended questions, more detail and thoughts are gathered related to the discussion topic resulting in more open ended conversations. Some examples of open-ended questions include the following.

- Tell me about why you chose your major and/or career?
- What do you want to do with your major?
- How do you plan to build towards your career goal while in college?
- In what ways will you explore your major and career ideas?
- Tell me how you will develop the skills desired by employees?
- How have you explored your major and/or career?

When talking with students, if you hear a lot of responses of ‘I don’t know’ or they are consistently struggling to answer these open-ended questions this is an indication that a referral to a Career Counselor is needed. To refer please follow the link here. Also, students can call 977-2828 to schedule an appointment or students can stop by the Student Success Center in BSC, Suite 331.