



How to Effectively Use a Mentor

The Volunteer CDT Mentor Directory is a wonderful way for technicians working through the certification process to receive personal feedback on their progress and for mentors to give back to the profession and the next generation of CDTs.

It is helpful for both parties involved for communication to be clear and concise. In order to have a productive and positive experience, below are a few tips to consider when using a mentor:

1. Locate someone from the Volunteer CDT Mentor Directory. Make an introduction via email or over the phone to inquire whether the person would be available to mentor you. If not, please contact another mentor from the list.
2. Aim to select a mentor that is certified in the specialty in which you are planning to test. You may also want to try and find a mentor near you geographically in case you opt to meet in person.
3. Email is a great way to communicate for most people, but things do become lost in the flood of emails that we all receive. If you do not hear back from your mentor within a few days, assume that your email was not received and send your correspondence again or better yet, make a phone call.
4. When asking someone to mentor you, make certain to include what specialty you are planning to test, as some NBC mentors hold multiple specialties and this will help them when responding to your questions.
5. Include the type of feedback that you are looking for, whether it is the Written Exams or Practical Exams. Are you looking for study techniques or the best resource materials for your Written Exams? Are you looking for tips and techniques on your Practical Exam? Are you looking for someone to review your work and provide pointers for how to improve?
6. Use technology to your advantage when it comes to communication with your mentor. There are many resources available such as DropBox or GoToMeeting that can allow you to share photographs of your work or get face to face time with your mentor for feedback.

7. Lastly, remember that the critique by a mentor is only the critique of one person and is meant to be constructive. Both of you have the goal of helping to pass your examinations and become a CDT.
8. You are encouraged to actively work with a mentor to avoid or correct faults that can jeopardize your chances of success. However, positive feedback from your mentor does not guarantee success. While all mentors are active CDTs and have themselves taken the CDT examinations, on exam day there will be three different examiners independently judging your work.
9. Pay close attention to the materials provided by NBC during the certification process as they supersede any information given to you by your mentor. When in doubt contact NBC with questions regarding the examination process, standards or materials.

The Volunteer CDT Mentor Directory is one of the many resources available to you. Take advantage of it.