The mentorship program is a tool that helps alumni stay involved with their alma mater while helping to prepare current students for life after Yale. Drawing from a pool of over 4,500 alumni, this growing program connects students with alumni who have common interests and relevant professional experience to share.

Students choose mentors at the start of the academic year and connect with them as needed throughout the year. Mentors provide guidance on topics such as academic work, summer internships and professional aspirations. As students establish connections with their alumni mentors, they learn about the career paths alumni have taken, hone their leadership and management skills and learn about industry trends.

“The most important element of the program is that it connects our students, many of whom have limited professional experience, with alumni, who serve as guides, advisers and sounding boards,” said Martin Klein, M.P.H. ’86, Ph.D., associate dean for development and external affairs. “If the relationship flourishes, alumni may also help students broaden their network and connect with potential employers.”

Alumni can learn more about the program at publichealth.yale.edu/alumni/mentoring/index.aspx. Students are encouraged to review potential mentors’ backgrounds so that they can be paired with alumni who share their interests. The selection process begins in the fall, and students may choose two mentors. Likewise, mentors may advise two students.

“I’m wiser for it.” —David Kates
Gabrielle Daniels  
M.P.H. student  
“My mentors both had a willingness to extend themselves to me and on my behalf. They are wonderful connectors, and I have truly appreciated their time and efforts.”

David Kates  
M.P.H. student  
“He was very excited to be a mentor and suggested that we start a reading club where we would share articles with each other and discuss their health implications. I found that to be incredibly helpful.”

Denise Stevens  
Alumni mentor, Ph.D. ’95  
“The most memorable moments of mentoring are when you are sharing your story with them, and they realize that it is okay to walk down one path that ends up being a dead end and to then turn around and follow another path—as long as you learn something at every turn.”
Margaret Mayer  
M.P.H. student

“My mentor’s interests and accomplishments lined up extremely well with my own, and her enthusiasm for helping a fellow YSPHer was key in my getting a summer internship.”

Caroline Stampfel  
Alumni mentor, M.P.H. ’05

“I love the opportunity to engage with students who will be our next generation of young professionals. I really like being able to share the path I took in public health and giving the students ideas for what their paths could look like.”

Eileen Huang  
Alumni mentor, M.P.H. ’13

“Being a mentor allowed me to reconnect with my experiences at YSPH. It is inspiring to hear from current students about their accomplishments, and knowing that they are the future of public health gives me a sense of responsibility and the honor of being their mentor.”