The mentoring program is designed to provide academic and social development assistance and guidance to freshmen and new undergraduate students. The mentoring program’s goals are to build self-esteem of incoming freshmen and new students, increase students’ academic success, increase positive social interaction, and reduce concerns about the Summer Design programs for architecture and industrial design.

BUILDING BRIDGES MENTORING PROGRAM
10 “MUST-KNOWS” TO SURVIVE CADC UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS

Delvin Stephens, Architecture Student

Your education is important. Know what architecture is before choosing it. Architecture is not the six lined house that you placed on the refrigerator in kindergarten. There is much more to architecture than four walls, a door, two windows, and a roof.

Identify a mentor. Shadow someone and learn from them. Catch on to what a junior or senior has to offer and throw in your own twist on how to provide a solution to a problem.

Your wallet. Architecture is not a cheap major. Professional fees, supplies, and field trip fees are all factors that contribute to the ever decreasing size of your wallet.

Develop your communication skills. Learn how to speak to your professor and peers in a manner in which you are as clear to them as they are to you. Do not be a shy recluse. You have a voice, so use it to your advantage when expressing yourself. Do not forget, architecture is about expressing your ideas clearly through an appropriate design approach.

Be competitive. Architecture is tough because it is competitive. It is your design against your peers’. The most organized and clear design will get recognition. Never get lazy.

Be receptive. There are many things that will make you question your reasons for choosing architecture. Long nights, desk crits, or the unmerciful reviews are just the tip of the iceberg. Be receptive of anything that your professors tell you. You are not Frank Lloyd Wright, and you should never think that in one night you can achieve such a skill. Your projects will change many times over a semester. Be open to criticism, take the ideas that are given, and use them to your advantage.

Have goals. Your main goal is to finish. It is the ultimate and only goal after you have tweaked the few remaining errors of the design development stage.

Think abstractly. Change your style of thinking to separate yourself from others. A box is just a box, until you happen to capture the essence of its need to exist. Change its shape or form but have a reason for any approach that may seem drastic.

The mentoring program is sponsored by The CADC Office of Multicultural Affairs.
There is a $2,160 Professional Fee. For some reason, students do not always know about this additional cost per semester, so be prepared to pay. There is no way around it. Have your checkbook ready!

Don’t be too good to ask. Take advantage of scholarship opportunities. There is money available, but you have to ask to receive. Many times additional funding is available. Contact the CADC Office of Multicultural Affairs and Diversity for more information.

Never take two or more math/science intensive classes at once. Balance your course load with easy/medium/hard classes. If you don’t, you run the possibility of spreading yourself too thin for the classes that really need your time and attention. For example, do not take Structures I and Physics at the same time!

Trust your instincts! The BSCI curriculum is a guideline for you. Only you know your capabilities. Be smart about class times and courses to allow yourself time to study.

Make A’s in BSCI classes. It will fast track you into being accepted into the program. Take all classes seriously, especially the BSCI classes. Classes like Structures and Materials and Methods I and II can count up to four times on your calculated BSCI GPA. It will save you a lot of heartache later—during the spring/fall acceptance time—if you study hard and score well in these classes.

Make friends quickly. Do not delay finding yourself a good group of people to study with. It makes testing and projects easier, and you also retain more knowledge from the study group versus studying alone.

Talk to your professors. Your professors will appreciate your interest in their classes. This will pay off in the future.

Join a club or association. NOMAD and AGC are some organizations to join. Joining organizations will assist you with meeting new people and networking.

Make a résumé. Take advantage of our Career Center and the Job Placement Specialist (Cassandra Calloway) within BSCI. There are always summer internships and jobs available for BSCI students. When you are interviewing, it is not always what you know, but who you know.

Talk to your advisor. Keep in touch with your advisor so that you stay on track. Develop your own opinion based on research and his or her advice. You are ultimately responsible for graduating, so make sure you take the right steps now to avoid problems later.

Manage time wisely. Sacrifices must be made in order to be successful.

Get to know the professors. Develop a personal relationship with your professors.

Sketch as often as possible. The subject doesn’t matter. Sketch everything in sight.

Practice using software. Learn Adobe Suite, 3D modeling software, and 3D rendering.

Stay on a schedule. Your projects and assignments tend to pile up, so scheduling your time is a must.

Don’t procrastinate on printing. There will always be a line for printing large documents. There won’t be enough paper when it’s your turn.

Have supplies. Have one or two spare USB drives with backup information. Try to get any necessary design software on your own computer. The computer lab fills up quickly.

Be proactive. If you can afford it, buy a computer strictly for assignments (i.e., rendering). It will make the process less stressful.

Cherish sleep. The earth was created in six days, and even then there was a rest break.

Get to know a few upperclassmen. Introduce yourself to new students, and invite them to organizational meetings. Each of you can contribute to the overall group discussion.