

Are there opportunities for my child to work with the faculty outside the classroom?

We received several different answers, which we've included below, because we thought the different perspectives were very valuable.

- ❖ Duke faculty members seem very interested in talking with and working with students outside of class. My daughter connected with a particular faculty member outside of class and ended up working with her on an educational and cultural project that led to going to Kenya last summer. My daughter has stayed connected with this faculty member (who, by the way, has never taught my daughter) this school year, and she hopes to return to Kenya this coming summer to continue work on the project.
- ❖ Our oldest son, a public policy major, spent the summer of his junior year interning with his entrepreneurship professor. He worked alongside the professor to help formulate the marketing strategy for a San Diego-based tech start-up. Our second son, who is studying engineering, was invited to join a group from the Pratt School to help rebuild after Hurricane Katrina. Although our son had previously made plans and could not go, we were struck by the good will of the professor to initiate and supervise the group.
- ❖ Faculty residents in the dorms interact with students daily on a personal level. Also, each student has an advisor who meets regularly with him/her, and students frequently access their professors through e-mail and office hours in addition to class time. First-year students in classes such as the Focus Program meet regularly with their instructors and classmates for dinner and discussions. Students also have opportunities to work on research projects with faculty members.
- ❖ My daughter has worked with faculty during the academic year on research projects, and she spent two summers at Duke on paid research fellowships. All of her experiences were in different departments with different faculty members. Additionally, she participated in the freshman Focus Program, which was highly oriented toward faculty contact. I have met a number of these faculty members during the last three years and they are outstanding educators and great people whose enthusiasm for their teaching is obvious.