Nowadays students that seek answers for school related questions usually use search engines as their main source of information. In most cases this information is unreliable and often incomplete. This project was envisioned to fulfill this need; to allow students to communicate with mentors that are experts in their field. On our mentoring platform students can post a question of any subject and it will be assigned to a mentor with the highest expertise on the subject matter to get the most reliable and accurate answer. In addition, to complement the student-mentor interaction experience, our mentoring platform will be integrated with another system that will allow communication through live video chat, white board brainstorming, file sharing or simple messaging.

My role in the project was to implement some functionalities of the mentoring subsystem such as allows users to create tickets, upload files for a ticket, append comments to a ticket, allow a project mentor to set up meeting with their respective mentees, allow administrator to monitor the upcoming meetings between project mentors and mentees. Also, I wrote an algorithm that allows the system auto assign a ticket to most appropriate domain mentor expert in the field based on domain specified in the ticket and mentor availability.

In order to develop our platform we used the Model View Controller architecture.

In our platform, Security was a main concern. For this purpose, we used yii framework to develop our platform. It provides a security framework that allows us to securely sign or encrypt data using secret key. In our platform, the system stores all the tickets that students can post by using theTicketController.php class in a database. Also, the system uses User.php class, which provides a security feature to manage user authentication.

The platform in a first stage will be use for academic purpose, but it is evident that its functionality goes beyond that.

The mentoring subsystem will benefit the FIU community, because they will be able to place a question and get the most relevant and credible comment from credible and experts domain mentors.

The mentoring subsystem will allow students, mentees, domain mentor, personal mentor and project mentors interact in agile way during the time of the senior project course.

The platform in a first stage will be use for academic purpose, but it is evident that its functionality goes beyond that.