

OAPA EPG MENTORSHIP PROGRAM FAQ

What size is a typical cohort, and why is it limited?

We limit the number of match pairs to 25, so that our cohort does not exceed 50 participants. This size allows us to find reasonably-priced event locations that can accommodate our group, while ensuring a large enough group in which participants have the opportunity to forge many new professional relationships.

How are mentee/mentor pairs chosen?

Primarily, we consider planning field and sector interests, geographic location, and meeting/communication preferences when matching pairs.

If I was not matched last year, can I reapply this year?*

Please do! We often receive more mentee applications than we can accommodate. Simply fill out the new form and resubmit with a current resume, and we will make every effort to find you a match this year!

**If you are a mentor who has participated in the past and are interested in mentoring again, don't worry about reapplying — just email us!*

I don't live in Portland, can I still apply for the program?

Absolutely! Mentees and mentors from throughout the state have participated in our program. We try to match applicants who live near one another, when possible, while still ensuring matches are a good fit.

Is there a fee to apply?

No! Our Mentorship Program is offered to mentees free of charge.

Is attendance required at all three organized events?

Though not strictly required, attendance at all three scheduled events is strongly encouraged. This is particularly important for the Kick-Off Event, which includes activities designed to get participants familiar with the program and their cohort. The cohort itself is an important resource; opportunities for network building are greatest when we have the highest attendance.

What if I cannot attend the Kick-Off Event or another organized event?

Having a scheduling conflict does not make you ineligible for the program. Let us know in advance if something comes up and you can't make it to any of the program events.

My office (or other space) would be a great location for one of the organized events. Would EPG be interested in holding an event there?

Potentially! Although mentorship events are usually held in public venues where food and drink are served, we would be interested in holding events in planning-oriented spaces that can comfortably host 30-50 people. EPG also organizes Lunch & Learn and Happy Hour events that might be a good fit for your space! Contact epg@oregonapa.org with ideas, proposals, and questions.

I have a dietary restriction, can you accommodate me?

We make every effort to accommodate dietary restrictions! You can indicate restrictions in your application or describe them in an email to program organizers. Please also let us know if your restrictions are due to a food allergy or Celiac disease.

Are the self-directed mentee/mentor meetings really that important?

Absolutely! The one-on-one meetings are a centrally important aspect of the program. The Guidebook includes a list of ways you can get the most out of your meetings, whether that's discussing how best to navigate academic challenges, learning more about particular planning topics, or getting general career guidance. Mentorship pairs will complete a goal-setting activity during the Kick-Off event; mentees in particular should think about what they are hoping to gain from this relationship!

Why do you send out program surveys? Do I really need to complete those?

It's not obligatory, but we would love it if you did! We are always looking for and testing out new ideas that will make each program year better than the last. Your honest feedback helps us make that happen.