

# 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 people. 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 look at planning field and sector interests, geographic location, and meeting/communication preferences when we match 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. This year's application form is much simplified from last year's, so 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. We used to charge a small fee, but came to realize that making planning students and emerging professionals pay to participate didn't really benefit them or EPG, and so we eliminated the fee requirement.

## 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. Just let us know in advance if something comes up and you can't make it to an event.

## 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?

Yes! We often have a larger group and are always looking for places where we can hold meetings that do not charge an event fee, especially if there is presentation equipment available. Seeing different professional offices is also a great opportunity for mentees. We are happy to work within any restrictions on food and drinks.

## 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 an allergy or Celiac's.

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

Absolutely! The monthly meetings are where you reap the individual benefits of your pairing. The Program Guidebook includes a list of ways you can utilize these meetings for academic or professional advice, or to ask questions about particular planning topics or career paths. 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 fill those out?

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.