

Program Overview

The Ascend USC Mentorship Program is a program created for selected students to explore career interests and engage in mutually beneficial, professionally oriented relationships with alumni and community members. The program's mission is to enrich and support the professional, academic and personal experiences of undergraduate students in order to assist them in transitioning from academic to professional life. This approach aligns with that of Ascend USC's function as a bridge between seasoned professionals and emerging leaders and an incubator for partnership and leadership.

The Ascend USC Mentorship Program begins each fall and spring and lasts for one semester. We will host three general events such as workshops, social events, and a celebration event. To enroll in the program, mentors and students will be asked to complete a brief profile form identifying their education, career path/goals, professional background, and personal interests in order to be paired up. Mentors are normally paired up with no more than three students but will be able to specify the amount of students they wish to mentor in the application form.

Students (Mentees) – Role and Expectations

As the primary beneficiaries of the mentor relationship, you are expected to make initial and continued contact with your mentor. As a mentee, you must:

- Discuss your needs and clearly communicate expectations with your mentor; think about what you want out of the program prior to each meeting.
- Discuss ideas and activities with your mentor and commit to agreements made
- Be receptive to suggestions and feedback.
- Keep your mentor informed of your progress. Contact your mentor in a timely manner if you are unable to attend scheduled meetings.
- Realize that having a mentor is privilege and work hard to take advantage of the opportunity.
- Maintain a professional demeanor and keep communication professional.

- Be respectful of your mentor’s time

Once again, it is very important to remember that initiating contact with your mentor and being proactive in continuing contact and following up with your mentor is your role as the mentee. Please keep that in mind throughout the course of the program.

This program is not intended to be an internship, nor is it designed to lead to a job in the mentor’s place of employment.

Time Commitment for Mentees

The fall mentorship program runs from approximately September through December. After students are selected based on their applications and assigned to their mentors, they are asked to arrange meetings with their mentors at least once per semester. We also plan to host three group events in which mentors and students can foster their relationships in a group setting. All the events are mandatory for mentees, and attendance will be tracked. If you have a good reason why you are unable to attend an event, please notify us at least a week in advance why you could not make it. You are encouraged to continue the mentor/mentee relationship beyond one semester.

Below is the tentative timeline for the Fall Semester’s Mentorship Program:

Date	Ascend Mentorship Event (Fall 2015)
26 September, 2015 (Saturday) 10:00am - 2:00pm	Mentorship Kickoff Event (Welcome Luncheon, Goal-Setting, and Workshop)
22 October, 2015 (Thursday) 7:00pm - 8:30pm	Professional Event / Workshop
21 November, 2015 (Saturday) 3:00pm - 9:00pm / 6:30pm - 9:00 pm	Mentorship End-of-Semester Celebration (Optional Social Event + Dinner)

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How frequently should we meet?

A: We recommend meeting no less than once per semester. A majority of previous

mentors and mentees have indicated that participating in events organized through Ascend USC and its mentorship program provide a good environment for communication and relationship building.

Q: Where should we meet?

A: Most participants meet with their mentors on campus, but some choose to meet at their mentor's place of business or other convenient locations. Once again, you are strongly reminded that you have the responsibility to be respectful of your mentor's time.

Q: How long should meetings be?

A: Feedback from professionals and students indicate hour-long meetings are the most efficient and productive.

Q: How should subjects to be discussed be selected?

A: It is important that the student take a proactive role in determining the content of the meetings. Previous participants noted that a half hour interview followed by a half-hour discussion is the most content-generating way of discussion.

Q: If I am interested in an internship or job prospects what do I do?

A: The mentorship program is not intended to meet job-placement or internship requirements of the student. However, these are subjects that are frequently addressed during mentor meetings, so it is totally fine to talk to your mentor about it. We do encourage mentors to assist mentees by identifying any opportunities they may be aware of if they are comfortable doing so, but acquiring an internship or a job is not an objective of this program.

Q: How many students will be in each mentor group?

A: We recommend that each mentor work with two to three students in order to maximize the number of students that are able to participate in the program. However, a mentor can specify how many students he or she wants to mentor.