

AFP Mentorship

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Am I eligible to apply as a Mentee if I've been fundraising for 2 or more years?

The purpose of the program is to assist in the professional development of a fundraiser/development leader. If you have under 5 years of fundraising experience and think one-on-one mentorship could help further your professional development, then you should consider applying!

We do require mentees to have at least 1 year of experience, and encourage those with between 2-5 years to apply. In fact, we have found those who have enough experience in their role and environment to have clearly defined challenges and goals have the most success in the program!

Please note the Mentor program is NOT for those seeking a new job. AFP provides networking opportunities, including before and after monthly education sessions, for professionals seeking to meet others in the field.

Am I eligible to apply as a Mentee if I've already been an AFP Mentee?

No; although many Mentors/Mentee pairings keep in touch long after the program formally ends. If you are seeking continued, informal mentorship, we highly recommend joining a committee, an AFP Affinity Group, or applying as an AFP Board Members. See website for more information.

I don't have all the answers...I'm not qualified to be a Mentor, right?

No one has all the answers! Our Mentors are helping to guide new professionals, providing feedback, guidance and support and are never expected to have all the answers. Near-peer mentorship can sometimes be the most successful because you are able to relate to your partner. There is no previous Mentorship experience required; those with experience in the field and a genuine willingness to help others make the best Mentors! We will work to ensure that you are paired with someone who's goals match your experience. We ALL have something to give and can strengthen our community nonprofits by working together to develop informed, ethical fundraisers!

How does AFP select who gets accepted into the Mentorship program?

We work diligently to recruit enough Mentors to meet the demand each year. However, this is not possible every year and selections are sometimes made based on the following criteria. After excluding candidates who do not meet the basic eligibility requirements listed above:

Mentees and Mentors are selected based on the candidate's match with the Mentorship program goals, based on responses to questions in application and resumes.

For Mentees, we are looking to identify if the candidate has clearly defined goals and knows what s/he would like to get out of the program, as well as if the candidate has support from their leadership.

For Mentors, we are looking to match professional experience with Mentee needs, prior experiences in AFP Mentorship program (if applicable) and a willingness to help develop ethical, informed fundraising professionals for our community's nonprofits!

Why are Mentees required to participate in a committee?

AFP is an organization powered by volunteers, and relies on its members giving back to carry out the functions of the chapter.

More importantly, serving on a committee helps integrate you into the AFP organization and compliments your one-on-one mentorship experience by introducing you to other members and chapter leadership. Getting involved in this way helps ensure your growth can be sustained beyond your 1-year mentorship.

Revised 10/31/18