

# **Career Forward Program FAQs for Students**

*Updated September 2024*

## **What is the Career Forward Program?**

Career Forward is a program of the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia designed for college students in their junior or senior year. The program will offer one-on-one mentoring and seminars to equip students to make the transition from university life to a career after graduation.

## **Who can participate?**

The mentoring program is open to students who are in their junior or senior year of college in a variety of majors: economics, finance, accounting, English, marketing, architecture, computer science, business administration, and many more. The 2024 program, which will begin on Monday, October 28, is open to students who are on track to graduate in the spring of 2025 or in 2026.

## **What is the duration of the program?**

The 2024 program will launch on October 28 and will run through March 4, 2025.

## **How are students paired with mentors?**

Each student is paired with a Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia employee based on the student's career interests and goals. As part of the application process, students will be asked to submit a resume and answer questions about their post-college plans and goals to provide the best mentoring match.

## **How is the program structured?**

The program will include three seminars and one-on-one mentoring sessions to engage students and provide them with tools to plan their goals and take steps to achieve them. Students will meet with their mentors monthly (at minimum) to discuss seminar topics, focus on the student's individual goals, and allow for networking opportunities.

## **How much time should I plan to allot for this program?**

Students should expect to be present at the program orientation on Monday, October 28, 2024, and the closing ceremony on Tuesday, March 4, 2025, and to dedicate two to three hours each month to the program. This includes the three virtual seminars and one-hour sessions with their mentor. The program orientation and closing ceremony will be about 1.5 hours each. These events are required for the student and mentor.

**When and where will the events take place?**

Students will be polled when they apply about their availability so that the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia can plan all events accordingly. The kickoff and closing events, along with the educational seminars, will be virtual-only. Those in the Greater Philadelphia region can talk with their mentor and the program coordinators about visiting the Bank.

**What does orientation include?**

The Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia will host a virtual kickoff event so the mentors and mentees can meet and get to know each other. Students will learn what is expected from them as mentees. Students should discuss what they hope to get out of the program with their mentor and what they have planned for the rest of the school year. Matched pairs will also agree upon the frequency and details of their one-on-one sessions.

**When will the seminars be held and how long will they be?**

The Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia will host three, virtual-only seminars that will last approximately 1 to 1.5 hours in December, January, and February.

**What will the seminars be about?**

Topics for seminars include best practices for getting your foot in the door and developing your career, financial best practices and budgeting, and choosing your first job.

**What can I expect from the one-on-one sessions?**

Students can expect to meet with their mentors at least once monthly. Pairs will determine what time, day, and platform work best for their meetings, although the scheduling and discussion should be driven by the student. Pairs will discuss seminar topics, the student's goals, and the progress being made toward those goals.

If you have any additional questions not covered in the FAQs,  
please contact [PHIL.CareerForward@phil.frb.org](mailto:PHIL.CareerForward@phil.frb.org).