



Career Forward Program FAQs for Students

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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 2023 program, which will begin in October 2023, is open to students who are on track to graduate in spring of 2024 or in 2025. Students who are BIPOC are encouraged to apply.

What is the duration of the program?

The 2023 program will launch in October 2023 and will run through April 2024.

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 monthly 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 on a monthly basis 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 dedicate two to three hours each month to the program. This includes the monthly seminar and one-hour sessions with their mentor. A program orientation, mid-program check-in, and closing ceremony will be about two 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, midpoint, and closing events will be hybrid, with in-person attendance strongly encouraged for those in the greater Philadelphia region. The educational seminars will be virtual-only.

What does orientation include?

The Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia will host a hybrid kickoff event so the mentors and mentees can meet and get to know each other. In person attendance is strongly encouraged for those in the greater Philadelphia region. 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 discuss 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 monthly seminars be held and how long will they be?

The Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia will host monthly virtual-only seminars that will last approximately 1 to 1.5 hours. Seminars will only take place in the following months: October to November and January to April.

What will the seminars be about?

Possible topics for seminars include best practices for getting your foot in the door and developing your career; student loans and budgeting; work–life balance; and skills needed for entry-level jobs.

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. Students will discuss seminar topics, the student's goals, and the progress being made toward those goals.

What are the program's milestones?

In January 2024, the Bank will host a mid-program check-in with the pairs in order to assess each student's progress, gather feedback from the students to inform the remainder of the program, and allow students to create a vision board. The program will conclude with a closing ceremony in April 2024 that will allow the pairs to reflect on their progress and celebrate successes.
