

Office of Graduate Studies
Florida State University

Fellows Mentoring Program

Florida State University is initiating a supplementary mentoring program to enhance the educational experience and career preparation of graduate degree fellowship holders. This program is intended to expand the range of advice available to fellows and to facilitate their early engagement with issues of academic and professional success. The Graduate Fellows Mentoring Program is open to all FSU students who currently hold Auzenne, College Teaching, Gubernatorial, McKnight, Presidential, University or Wilson fellowships. Students indicate their interest in the program by completing a Mentoring Participation Request form, available online from the Office of Graduate Studies.

Who are the mentors? The Mentoring Program will usually propose one advanced graduate student and one faculty or professional staff member as mentors for each participating fellow. These proposed mentors are chosen from a pool developed by the Office of Graduate Studies working in conjunction with graduate program directors across campus. Mentors are from different degree programs than the mentees, and are proposed taking account of research or professional interests. Proposed mentors may reflect demographic considerations or other factors, when the fellow requests this.

What is mentoring? It is voluntary, involving only students and mentors who choose to take part. It is a team effort, helping fellows to reach beyond their supervisory committees to others who may have useful insights to share with them (although the various members of the team may not know each other, nor interact). Mentors can often offer a semi-detached perspective on research and/or teaching activities, career development and balancing home with school. Mentoring does not replace the University's first line teaching and career planning services. It is oriented to different issues than the usual focus of the student's supervisory committee, which remains the primary source of advice. It is not a substitute for professional counseling.

How do mentees and mentors interact? "Mentoring Pairs" agree to meet at least three times each semester; at least once each term to discuss a pre-set agenda. Mentors also may observe their mentees performing professionally (e.g. practice talks), or the mentoring pair may attend campus events together. In situations where the mentor practices a profession that the mentee intends to practice (often teaching and research), the mentor will try to provide the mentee with insights into his or her own work life.

How long does the mentoring relationship last? As a voluntary relationship, mentoring lasts as long as the two participants want it to last. In most cases the pair will interact for at least a year, but they may choose to continue the relationship for the length of degree studies or beyond.

How do participants become involved? Graduate fellows seeking mentors should complete the Mentoring Participation Request. Faculty, A&P staff, alumni and senior graduate students interested in serving as mentors should complete a Mentor Pool Questionnaire. Both forms are available online from the Office of Graduate Studies (www.gradstudies.fsu.edu).

How do I get further information? Additional information about the Fellows Mentoring Program will be posted to the FSU Graduate Students Blackboard site and the Office of Graduate Studies web pages as it becomes available. Inquiries may be directed to Bruce Stiftel, Office of Graduate Studies, Campus Mail Code 1410, <bruce.stiftel@fsu.edu>.

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Mentor Pool Questionnaire

If you are a Florida State University faculty member, A&P staffer, alumnus, or advanced graduate student, and are interested in assisting a current graduate student by serving as a mentor, please complete this questionnaire and return it to <gradstds@www.fsu.edu>; fax: 850-644-2969; or Office of Graduate Studies, Florida State University, Tallahassee FL 32306-1410.

Contact Information:

Name: _____ e-mail: _____

Mail Address: _____

preferred voice telephone: (____) _____ uni home cell

alternate voice telephone: (____) _____ uni home cell

fax: : (____) _____

Academic/Professional Interests:

Organization where you work/study: _____

If you are a student, how long have you been enrolled in your present degree program? _____

Specialization/Field/Concentration: _____

Highest Degree: _____ Professional certification(s): _____

If appropriate, describe the focus of your work in greater detail: _____

Additional Information:

Are there special experiences, knowledge or skills you have that may be of value in a mentoring relationship? _____

If you wish, you might tell us about an aspect of your background or an interest that would enable you to offer useful advice related to special personal circumstances of students: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____