

Office of Graduate Studies
Florida State University

Mentoring Participation Request

Please complete this form if you are an FSU graduate fellowship holder who wishes to participate in the Fellows Mentoring Program. Completed forms should be returned electronically to <gradstds@www.fsu.edu>; by fax to: (850) 644-2969; or via campus mail to Graduate Studies, Campus Mail Code 1410.

Contact Information:

Name: _____ e-mail: _____

Campus Mail Address: _____

preferred voice telephone: (____) _____ uni home cell

alternate voice telephone: (____) _____ uni home cell

fax: : (____) _____

Academic Interests:

Degree Program: _____ How long enrolled? _____

Department or School: _____ College: _____

Specialization/Field/Concentration: _____

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

Additional Information:

Are there special experiences, knowledge or skills you are looking for in a Mentor? If so, please describe these: _____

If you wish, you may tell us about personal circumstances you would like us to consider in proposing an understanding Mentor: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

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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, 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 the program of study, research and/or teaching activities and career development. Mentoring does not replace the University's first line teaching and career planning services, but instead supplements these. 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 (in exams, practice talks, etc.), 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.

When can I get started? If you apply to join the Fellows Mentoring Program at the start of the Academic Year 2006-07, you can expect to have a proposal for mentoring pairs in hand by October 2006. Later applicants will be accepted on a rolling basis.

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>.