



## The PRSA Boston Mentor Network FAQ's

### **Q: Will this program take up a lot of my time and is it a long-term commitment?**

**A:** The PRSA Boston Mentor Network is structured and designed to accommodate the limited schedule of its members and our area young professionals and students (mentees). It is an informal program, so the time commitment is extremely flexible and dependent on the "tier" that each mentor registers under as well as the type of projects/meetings requested by the mentee(s).

### **Q: What is the tiered program?**

**A:** Our three "tiered" program ensures that our mentors and prospective mentees are best matched to meet individual needs. As a member of this exclusive program, prospective mentees have access to an online directory of area mentors who agree to give their valuable time, contact information, and areas of interest to help young professionals achieve their goals. Tiers include:

1. **Small group-based mentoring:** Opportunities for mentors to occasionally meet with small groups of students/mentees – facilitated by YPRP.
2. **Project-based mentoring:** Opportunities for mentors/mentees to collaborate on specific project(s) for a designated period of time – whether a resume, portfolio-building or another project.
3. **Informal/informational interview mentoring:** Opportunities to occasionally and selectively connect for one-to-one informational interviews, brief phone exchanges, or via email, for specific questions.

### **Q: How long will the engagement run?**

**A:** The engagement length will depend on the program tier (small group, project-based or informational) that the mentor and mentee are working on. The length will truly be dependent on individual need.

### **Q: What are the requirements of being a mentor?**

**A:** Please see below:

1. Share knowledge regarding jobs, career paths and the professional world
2. Respect confidentiality
3. Establish a strong and trusting relationship with mentees
4. Provide constructive feedback and criticism

### **Q: What are the requirements of being a mentee?**

**A:** Please see below:

1. Accept feedback without being defensive
2. Maintain consistent contact with whichever mentor you are working with for the full length time agreed by both parties
3. Willingness to learn and gain advice

4. Respect confidentiality
5. Not afraid to ask questions
6. Has an open mind

**Q: How do I participate in the PRSA Boston Mentor Network?**

**A:** Both mentors and mentees must complete the online questionnaire. To register as a mentor, click [here](#), and to register as a mentee, click [here](#). Once the mentee has registered, s/he will be supplied with a list of mentors that s/he can review to see who is a fit. Mentees should reach out to the mentor by telephone or email.

**Q: Who initiates the first contact?**

**A:** Mentees will typically be the first to initiate contact with a mentor, who is selected from the online directory. After the mentee first contacts the mentor, either mentor or mentee may contact the other depending on the request/inquiry.

**Q: Do mentors and mentees need to discuss suggested topics during their meetings?**

**A:** Mentors and students are encouraged to discuss the following suggested topics:

- Resume writing
- Portfolio building
- Class schedule, program and other related courses
- Internships
- Local companies and organizations
- Networking opportunities
- Obtaining an APR
- Pursuing a graduate degree
- Managing conflict and other challenges in the workplace
- PRSA Membership

However, mentors and mentees are free to discuss whichever topics as they mutually agree.

**Q: How often should the mentors and mentees meet?**

**A:** The schedule that the mentor and mentee decide upon is up to that particular pairing and for what purpose the mentee originally reached out to that particular mentor. You may meet as often as you mutually agree. Meetings also don't have to have a specific format or topic.

**Q: What happens if a mentor or mentee is unable to contact or hear from the other?**

**A:** Sometimes communications between mentors and mentees break down. If so, try contacting your mentor or mentee again. If there is still no response, you may choose another mentor or please email [admin@prsaboston.org](mailto:admin@prsaboston.org) and the program coordinators will assist.

**Q: What are the key benefits of joining this program as a mentor?**

**A:** The key benefits include the following:

- Improve personal leadership skills and ability in one-to-one and group presentation settings
- Act as a sounding board in someone's professional development, while also building your own professional network
- Provide career-support and advice to those in need/transition, while making a difference as a role model/leader in the community

**Q: What are the key benefits of joining this program as a mentee?**

**A:** The key benefits of joining the program as a mentee include the following:

- Will learn how to develop and nurture a professional network with access to top area professionals
- Discuss career plans and aspirations in a comfortable, “safe” professional setting
- Gain knowledge of workplace “do’s and don’ts”
- Understand how to balance work and other responsibilities and set priorities
- Gain the confidence to challenge oneself to achieve new goals/explore alternatives

**Q: Who is eligible for The PRSA Boston Mentor Network?**

**A:** Those eligible for the Mentor Network must be one of the following:

1. PRSA Boston chapter member
2. PRSSA chapter/PR club student at a local college or university in the Greater Boston area
3. Affiliate member of PRSSA or PRSA