STUDENTS

The Harris Mentor Program

Programming throughout the year brings mentors together with Harris students, and many choose to meet informally as they build close professional relationships.

Unique among top-tier policy schools, the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy offers a two-year Mentor Program to all master's degree students. Group and one-on-one mentorship creates meaningful connections among promising Harris students and mentors who are elected officials, CEOs, executive directors, policy

Career-building connections

Harris mentors, many of whom are alumni, call on their experiences to help students connect academic training with real-world opportunities. Mentors from diverse career paths advise students who match their professional interests, and many students report the value these mentors have brought to their early careers.

Mentorship has been a priority since Harris Public Policy was founded, along with its Mentor Program, in 1988. Today, we continue to expand the program so all students can benefit.

The Mentor Program provides distinct experiences for first- and second-year Harris master's students. In their first year, students meet together at mentor events based on career interests. Second-year mentor exchanges are individualized one-on-one pairings based on location, sector, goals, and personality.

Mentor insights help talented students channel their aspirations into definable career goals, empowering them in their professional growth.

"I get swept up in the excitement of linking Harris students with new opportunities and ways of thinking about their career options or strategizing how to get where they want to go."

Michael Tiboris
Fellow, Global Water at The Chicago Council on Global Affairs
Mellon/ACLS Public Fellow, American Council of Learned Societies
Mentor, Harris Public Policy

"The first-year mentors came from a variety of backgrounds, and all had a focus on health. Their insight has proven invaluable to my job search. My second-year one-on-one mentor has become my advisor and friend."

Greta Cottington, MPP'17

TO LEARN MORE

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THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
Harris Public Policy

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Program Structure for Harris Students

The Mentor Program serves master's students over their entire enrollment. The dynamic structure connects students with multiple mentors who have different experiences, skills, and perspectives. The program draws on the benefits of near-peer and traditional mentoring, and engages Harris Public Policy's exceptional community of alumni, employers, and other policy professionals. Students will build a powerful professional network, benefit from professionally relevant programming, and get encouragement and support from both mentors and classmates.

100%

of Harris master's students have the opportunity to enrich their experience in the Mentor Program.

200

established policy professionals are part of the Harris mentor network.

YEAR 1

EVENTS-BASED PROGAMMING

In your first year, you'll apply to the Mentor Program and indicate your career interest. Events will focus on career interest and will be led by mentors with experience in that particular career area and programmed by Harris staff members.

Programming for the first year will focus on career exploration, adjustment to graduate school, connecting the curriculum to its professional applications, and professionalism development. Programming includes facilitated dialogues around career development, team-building and social events, and topical programming tailored to students' areas of professional interest.

Events will be scheduled every quarter for first year students, and students and mentors will be encouraged to interact with one another outside of the context of the group.

YEAR 2

ONE-ON-ONE MENTORSHIP

Mentors come from across the United States and around the world, and have experience from a wide variety of career paths.

Through the advice, experience, and insight of you mentor, you'll begin fi ne-tuning your career goals and enhance your professional network.

Much of the interaction between mentors and mentees is driven by the pairs themselves, and programming is off ered throughout the year to give mentors and mentees additional opportunities to interact around shared interests.

How First-Year Mentors Help Students

- Advise on the courses, internships, and skills most beneficial to building your career path
- Help you negotiate your first year at Harris
- Support in developing soft skills and professionalism
- Provide long-term career growth strategies
- Expand your network personally and through their own vast networks

How One-on-One Mentors Help Students

- Personal support, guidance, and advice based on your interests and their extensive experience
- Help refining your career goals
- Practice interview skills
- Connect to their expansive networks

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