

WI-ASLA Mentorship Program – Fall 2024- Spring 2025

August 22, 2024

- **Mission**

The WI-ASLA Mentoring Program is intended to inspire and empower UW-Madison Landscape Architecture Students through personalized mentoring to support their growth within the industry. The program consists of meetings and events throughout the fall semester of 2024 through spring semester 2025. To accommodate varying levels of interest, mentors and mentees may be grouped into smaller, diverse cohorts comprising of students from different stages within the program, fostering increased participation and engagement.

- Goals

- Enhance students' professional development.
- Assist students in establishing personal and professional goals.
- Build deeper relationships between Student ASLA and WI-ASLA.
- Build deeper relationships between students at different stages within the program.

- **Lessons Learned**

The Spring 2024 mentorship program was overall a success, but we learned a couple of lessons along the way. We will try our best to remedy what we can. The following are the highlights:

- **1 mentor : 2 mentees is the preferred ratio. We will try our best to make this happen, but that means we need more mentors to sign up!**
- The time commitment is very flexible and manageable per the survey responses we received.
- Mentors need to help mentees take the initiative in mentorship. This can help build confidence.
- Take advantage of DPLA, WI ASLA, and ASLA Student Chapter events as opportunities for mentor-mentee gatherings.

Wisconsin Chapter of
the American Society of
Landscape Architects

1502 W. Broadway
Suite 102
Madison, WI 53713

www.wiasla.com
[@WIASLA](https://www.instagram.com/wiasla)

- **Relationship & Expectations**

A mentorship is a dynamic partnership built on guidance, mutual learning, and trust. Mentors offer expertise and a roadmap while encouraging autonomy; mentees bring enthusiasm and seek guidance to navigate challenges and grow. It's a symbiotic relationship fostering professional and personal development through shared aspirations and mutual respect. This program will be organized by the Mentor Coordinator at WI-ASLA and the Student Coordinator at the UW, who will work to match mentors and mentees to the best of their abilities. This is not a job placement program.

- Mentor Coordinator from WI-ASLA will have the following duties:
 - Facilitate mentors.
 - Work with Student Coordinator to match mentors and mentees.
 - Create and distribute digital application for matching process to both mentees and mentors (see links to applications below).
 - Communicate group activities with participants.
- Student Coordinator from UW will have the following duties:
 - Facilitate mentees.
 - Work with Mentor Coordinator to match mentors and mentees.
- Mentee Requirements:
 - UW-Madison Bachelor of Landscape Architecture Undergraduate Student and prospective BLA students.
 - **Mentee is responsible for maintaining relationship with mentor.**
 - Commit to mutual respect and open and sincere communication.
 - Establish a reasonable schedule.
 - Set clear expectations for each meeting.
 - Be on time – communicate ASAP if you need to reschedule or cancel.
 - Discuss & document your goals and progress.
- Mentor Requirements
 - Landscape architect, landscape designer, and/or planner with professional experience.
 - Commit to mutual respect and open and sincere communication. Be open-minded to new ideas and receptive to feedback. Ensure confidentiality.
 - Be engaged and actively listening during meetings. Reflect concerns mentee is sharing.
 - Be a source of information and encouragement.
 - Discuss benefits of being connected to ASLA and how that has supported your career.
 - While mentee is responsible for initiating ongoing meetings, encourage a check-in schedule to follow if they do not initiate contact enough to make sure they are still interested and taking advantage of the program.
 - Set clear expectations for each meeting.
 - Be on time – communicate ASAP if you need to reschedule or cancel.

- **Structure & Time Commitment**

As with most things in life, what you gain reflects the effort you invest. Your commitment and active participation shape the depth of knowledge and growth you receive. The more you engage and dedicate yourself, the richer and more meaningful the mentorship experience becomes. The following suggestions can help you shape your mentorship experience:

- Connect at least once every 2-4 weeks
- When you meet, plan for the next time you're going to meet.
- Respond to emails, phone calls, and text messages within 48 hours.

- **Tentative schedule**
 - August 22: Mentor & Mentee applications open
 - September 4, 2024 – School begins
 - September 13, 2024 – Mentor & Mentee applications close
 - September 20, 2024 – Parking Day & Mentorship Kick-Off gathering in Madison
 - September 28 – DPLA Anniversary Event & Alumni Reception
 - October 24, 2024 – WI ASLA Field Session in La Crosse
 - First two weeks of December - Fall semester juries
 - December 2024 – Potential end of semester social
 - January 21 – Spring semester begins
 - Late January 2025 – Portfolio review in Studio
 - Early-Mid February 2025 – UW Career Fair in Studio
 - February 27-28 – WI ASLA Spring Conference at Union South in Madison

- **Spring 2024 Contacts & Application:**
 - **Mentor Coordinator:** Abbie Moilien, amoilien@saiki.design, 608-405-8149
 - **Student Coordinator:** Eric Schuchardt, ejschuchardt@wisc.edu
 - **Mentor Application:** <https://forms.gle/MnqJJGFEdySnawsUA>
 - **Mentee Application:** <https://forms.gle/GCtes9iHDUZEyRfNA>

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MENTORSHIP CHECKLIST

Opportunities for learning are everywhere! Some ideas for mentorship gatherings and discussions include:

www.wiasla.com
[@WIASLA](https://www.instagram.com/wiasla)

- Set & document goals & expectations for mentorship
- Establish preferred communication method
- Schedule meetings
- Share your backgrounds & professional goals
- Plan a workplace visit
- Schedule a construction site visit (don't forget your PPE!)
- Plan a project site visit
- Organize a professional meeting shadow
- Visit UW studio
- Participate in student jury
- Participate in a WI ASLA event
- Attend a Student Chapter event
- Join a DPLA event
- Review an example portfolio
- Introduce students to other professionals
- Go for a walk together
- Play a game together
- Share artwork with one another
- Attend a networking event
- Do a mock interview
- Offer guidance on career/project decisions
- Brainstorm a project/design dilemma
- Critique a precedent project
- Present a current project
- Take part in a design competition
- Review & reflect on your goals
- Celebrate your achievements