

# WI-ASLA Mentorship Program – Spring 2024

December 4, 2023

- **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 spring semester of 2024. This inaugural phase will serve as a trial for the mentorship program, laying the groundwork for a full school-year program starting in the fall of 2024. 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.

- **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.

Wisconsin Chapter of  
the American Society of  
Landscape Architects

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

- 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 landscape architecture undergraduate student
  - 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 3-5 weeks
  - Respond to emails, phone calls, and text messages within 48 hours.
  - 2 minimum face-to-face meetings in the semester
- Individual or small group gatherings to consider:
  - Office visit
  - Job site visit
  - Meeting shadow
  - Class project review participation

- Group gathering examples to consider:
  - Mentorship kick-off gathering
  - Portfolio review before career fair
  - Office visit
  - Job site visit
  - Mentorship wrap-up gathering
- **Spring 2024 tentative schedule**
  - Through January 12, 2024: Mentorship applications open
  - ~~▪ February 1, 2024 – Kick-off gathering~~ **EDIT: Date TBD, Stay Tuned.**
  - February – Suggested meeting
  - March – Suggested meeting
  - April – Suggested meeting
  - May 2, 2024 – Wrap-up gathering
- **Spring 2024 Contacts & Application:**
  - **Mentor Coordinator:** Abbie Moilien, [amoilien@saiki.design](mailto:amoilien@saiki.design), 608-405-8149
  - **Student Coordinator:** Eric Schuchardt, [ejschuchardt@wisc.edu](mailto:ejschuchardt@wisc.edu)
  - **Mentor Application:** <https://forms.gle/3W8HGWQi8Sj1ou3D9>
  - **Mentee Application:** <https://forms.gle/La8SuLDEWpmFqTeD9>