Willamette MBA students provide valuable insights, support and assistance to business, government and non-profit organizations around the world. To create a mutually beneficial relationship with a Willamette MBA student, please contact the MBA Career Management team.

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WILLAMETTE UNIVERSITY
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The Willamette MBA mentor program pairs MBA students with successful business practitioners, offering a unique opportunity for guidance, coaching and relationship building. Mentors assist students by providing critical perspective and coaching as mentees focus on career interests, develop resumes of experience and create networks of professional contacts.

Mentors are successful professionals who serve as role models for our students. We seek candidates who are positive, nurturing, and able to give constructive feedback and have excellent coaching skills.

**THE COMMITMENT**

At a minimum, mentors should plan to meet with students at least once per month during the school year. Mentors are also invited to take part in optional formal group events and workshops. Past mentors have invited their mentees to networking events, job shadows, golf outings with colleagues, and meetings with co-workers. Mentors may review mentees’ resumes, papers or projects and offer advice on organizations or opportunities to make connections.

Students specify in their mentorship program applications if they can meet the requirements of the program with a Portland-based mentor.

**EFFECTIVE RELATIONSHIPS**

Students apply to be a part of the mentorship program and are proactive in contacting their mentors. Setting actionable, attainable goals as soon as possible helps ensure the relationship is mutually beneficial for the student and his or her mentor. At an initial meeting in Salem, students work with mentors on these goals.

The mentee is expected to take the initiative to schedule monthly meetings with his or her mentor, dress professionally, and provide career management staff with regular updates and progress towards goals.

**MENTOR-MENTEE MATCHING**

Mentors submit their preferences in working with students, centering around the mentee’s professional development goals. Pairs may be matched according to stage of career, industry, functional area or other personality traits. Matching students with mentors is both exciting and challenging, and the most successful relationships offer maximum benefits to both parties. Students list a number of professional development goals in their application and the career management staff works to pair them with like-minded mentors. Repeat mentors may ask that their previous mentees be involved in the decision process.

**MENTOR PROGRAM EVENTS**

Mentors have an opportunity to network with other mentors and mentees at a number of events in the fall and spring semesters. The first event is the most important to attend as this is where mentors share advice with each other and meet mentees for the first time. Other optional events throughout the year offer structured opportunities to connect with mentees.

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