



The ACE Mentor Program at a Glance

Imagine designing a state-of-the-art high school, planning the construction of a new football stadium, transforming the designs for a concert hall into a real building – while you're still in high school!



In your dreams? Not anymore.

Thanks to the ACE Mentor Program (ACE), thousands of high school students around the country are designing real-life projects under the direction of some of the nation's top engineering and design professionals.

ACE is an after-school program that gives you a hands-on introduction to architecture, construction management and engineering – careers you may consider if you're interested in designing and/or building just about everything around you, from schools, stadiums and concert halls to bridges, tunnels, shopping malls, parks and more.

The program matches you with ACE professionals, or mentors, who volunteer their time and energy. They show you where and how they work, the skills they use and some of their projects under construction. They also help you design an actual project.

When you join ACE, you may discover the career that was meant for you.

How It Works

You're assigned to a team of 20-30 students. Mentors from participating companies adopt your team for the school year, meeting with you about 15 times a year for two hours, after school. They show you how designers and builders think and work. They take you on behind-the-scenes office tours and field trips to construction sites. And then there's the design project.



The Design Project: Your Ultimate Challenge

Under your mentor's guidance, your team develops an actual engineering or architectural design project. You learn and apply important skills such as problem solving and drawing to design a real-life school, bridge, park – whatever your team agrees on. Then, in the final big event of the season, you and your team present your project to your teachers, parents and fellow students.



The Benefits

Career Guidance: Your exposure to many disciplines and specialties associated with engineering, architecture and construction management helps you decide which one – if any – is right for you. Your mentors have already been there and done that, and they can help you.

Job Opportunities: Meeting in actual companies opens up opportunities for summer jobs, internships . . . and beyond. Your mentors can help you apply for a position.

Transition to the Workplace: Becoming familiar with your mentors' working environment prepares you for working in an architecture, construction or engineering office.

Scholarships: Graduating high school seniors are eligible for a partial college scholarship through the ACE Scholarship Program, if you pursue an ACE career.

Better Skills: The program helps you develop a variety of skills, such as drawing, writing, presentation and problem solving.

The Cost

There is no cost to students for participating in the program – it just requires some time – time learning how your mentors think and what they do, time working with your team on your project, time preparing for your future.

When does ACE meet? Students can choose a team:

- Team 1 meets *every other week* from October through May on Tuesday from 3:30 to 5:30 PM at JCJ Architect's office, 38 Prospect Street in Hartford
- Team 2 meets *every other week* from October through May on Wednesday from 4 to 6 PM at Capital Community College on Main street in Hartford
- Team 3 meets *every week* from October through January on Wednesday from 4 to 6 PM at the offices of Tecton Architects, One Hartford Square West (247 Wyllys Street), Suite 103, Hartford, CT
- Team 4 meets *every week* from October through January on Thursday from 2:30 to 4:00 at Bloomfield High School

Apply Online: Visit www.acementor.org for more information, and to apply online.

Questions? Contact John Scheib, AIA, ACE Hartford Advisory Board Chair, (860) 344-9332 or jscheib.aia@gmail.org.