What is the ACE Program?

An after school program, ACE is a form of immersive learning. Mentors provide a hands-on curriculum which reflects many aspects of designing and constructing a building - for example, construction document reading, beam design, or cost estimation and bidding.

ACE follows a project-based learning strategy. Mentors meaningfully engage students with realistic design projects that introduce them to the basic skills and knowledge of the design/construction industry. Through personal example, explanation, and tours of offices and construction sites, they also inform students about career paths and work-life in the design/construction professions.

Through ACE, students acquire a set of skills and experiences which are among those cited as essential for the 21st-century workplace:

• Critical thinking and problem-solving
• Teamwork and collaboration
• Creativity and innovation
• Information technology application
• Communication in a cross-cultural environment

The ACE program extends over 12 to 15 after school sessions lasting 2 hours, for an overall total of approximately 40 hours. Several mentors drawn from different design and construction fields, paired with students, work as an integrated design team throughout the program.

What will I gain from the ACE Program?

Students will gain first hand insight into design and construction industries while visiting active construction sites under the supervision of their mentors.

Students will work closely with their mentors to solve challenging “real world” projects; researching, designing, and planning a major project as a team.

Each ACE mentoring session will be held at the offices of Progressive AE or Rockford Construction, depending on the day’s content focus. Each session begins with students and mentors gathering for a quick meal and discussion of the day’s events. Professionals representing architecture, construction, and engineering will share with students how their work helps to guide the planning, design and construction of the built environment; their individual career path, and why they practice their chosen profession.

Have questions or want to learn more?

Send us an email: westMi@acementor.org


To register, please follow these instructions:
1. Visit app.acementor.org/login
2. At the bottom of the login, click “Register as student”
3. Select “Mil West Michigan (Greater Grand Rapids)” when asked for affiliate name

“All student participants are eligible to apply for the West Michigan affiliate’s “Sponsor Scholarship”, which will be awarded to 1 or more exemplary students. Returning, second-year participants in the program are also eligible to apply for a national CMiC – Allen Berg Memorial Scholarship (ranging from $10,000-$40,000), available to high school seniors intending to pursue post-secondary education in architecture, engineering, construction, or the skilled crafts. Please inquire for more details.”

Schedule and program information
Please see the back of this flyer.

ACE Mentor Program of West Michigan
acementorwestMI
acementorwestMI

Progressive AE
1811 4 Mile Road NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49505

Rockford Construction
601 First Street NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504
Program Details

The ACE Program will run from October 2019 through April 2020. All students who register for this program are expected to attend all sessions. Time for these sessions are from 5-7 p.m. and food will be provided.

Fall 2019
Introduction to architecture, construction, and engineering.

Winter 2019/2020
Design and build projects, construction site visits and college night.

Spring 2020
Team project: site and program selection, conceptual massing, systems selections and construction planning. Final team project presentation and celebration.