



About ACE

Welcome to the ACE Mentor Program of Oregon. Thank you for your interest in this great opportunity for students to explore career options in architecture, construction and engineering.

The ACE Mentor Program: The ACE (architecture, construction, and engineering) Mentor Program is a national not-for-profit organization with chapters throughout the United States. The mission of the program is twofold: inform and motivate students toward careers in architecture, construction management and engineering, and provide mentoring and scholarship opportunities for those interested in pursuing these fields. Students are recruited from both public and private high schools throughout the country, with special efforts made to reach traditionally underrepresented populations of women and minorities.

ACE in Oregon: In 2006, local industry professionals founded ACE's Oregon chapter. Their goal was to introduce high school students in the Portland metropolitan region to the industry's wide range of career opportunities. The program has grown steadily: in 2019, 42 local firms provided 103 mentor volunteers for 153 students from 46 high schools in Oregon and SW Washington. ACE Oregon also awarded more than half a million dollars in scholarships to students who are pursuing higher education in architecture, construction, engineering, and related fields.

Program Format: Students are assigned to teams led by volunteer mentors from firms representing architects, construction managers, engineers (civil, structural, mechanical, electrical and environmental) and owners. Teams meet after school 12 times between January and May in the offices of mentor employers. Each team selects a project and goes through the entire design process, developing technical and professional skills along the way. In addition to office meetings, teams go on field trips to construction sites. At the end of the program, the teams present their projects to mentors, family and friends, much as an actual design team would present to a client.

Benefits to Students: Students have the opportunity to explore the many professions within the construction industry and learn many skills required for various family-wage jobs. Students are also able to work on individual presentation, problem-solving, and collaboration through team interaction and final presentations.

Commitment: This program is FREE for students. Attendance and active participation in the meetings are the main commitment of the student. Students are expected to be on time and attend all 12 after school sessions. In the event of illness or unavoidable conflict, one excused absence is allowed. Students must notify ACE in advance and any unexcused absences may result in dismissal from the program. Students are also responsible for their own transportation to and from meetings. Bus passes may be available for low-income students.

Scholarships: All active participating seniors who intend to pursue ACE-related majors at accredited institutions may apply for ACE scholarships. Since 2007, a total of \$623,000 in scholarships has been awarded. In 2019, \$84,000 in scholarships was awarded to 17 seniors.

Enrollment: ACE is open to seniors and juniors. Any student interested in participating in the program must complete BOTH an online application and paper application. Go to www.acementor.org/portland-or for application materials and more info. The paper application includes an attendance agreement, and the online application includes a parent consent form that must be completed. **The deadline for all application materials is November 15, 2019.**

For More Information: Visit our website at <http://www.acementor.org/portland-or>, talk to your school's career coordinator/counselor, or contact ACE's local staff at (503) 415-0579 or ace@portlandworkforcealliance.org



ACE Mentor FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions)

What is ACE?

The ACE Mentor Program is a free, intensive mentoring experience held after school once a week for 12 weeks from January to May. Portland-area students work with professionals and each other to explore careers in architecture, construction and engineering. The Oregon chapter of the ACE national nonprofit was founded in 2006.

How much does ACE cost?

Nothing! The cost for students is free. The program is supported by volunteer mentors and funded almost entirely by donations from private-sector employers.

Who works with students and how are they vetted?

ACE's volunteer mentors are practicing professionals with a special interest in helping young people and supporting the future of their profession. They provide individual mentoring in a team setting. All mentors undergo background checks and take advantage of mentor training.

Where and when do students meet?

Students in ACE meet once a week at local firms located in or near downtown Portland. Some may take field trips to job sites. Students are assigned to a team that meets on either Tuesdays or Thursdays from 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm.

Is there extra homework?

No! All work associated with ACE takes place during the two-hour mentoring sessions. A student might choose to do extra work outside the sessions, but no homework is required.

Does ACE include food?

Yes. A typical session will include a light meal, such as pizza or sandwiches.

Does ACE provide transportation?

No. Students are responsible for finding their own transportation. Transit passes may be available for low-income students.

Are there any scholarship opportunities?

Since 2006, the Oregon chapter of ACE has awarded \$623,000 in scholarships to Oregon students. A participating senior who intends to major in an ACE-related field can earn a college scholarship of \$3000-8000.

How can I learn more?

Visit the ACE website at <http://www.acementor.org/portland-or>, talk to your high school's career coordinator/counselor, or contact ACE's local staff at (503) 415-0579 or ace@portlandworkforcealliance.org