

GS 650: Preparing Future Faculty

PFF Mentor Assignment

You are required to seek out and enlist a faculty member at an institution other than the University of Kentucky to serve as a PFF mentor. The PFF mentor's institution may be within or outside Kentucky, depending on your mobility (for a complete list of institutions within the state, see the CPE or Council on Post-Secondary Education link on the course webpage). This assignment is designed to help you further develop your networking skills, to link you with a valuable career resource, and to provide you with an onsite experience at an institution of your choosing.

You should research and contact your prospective PFF mentor during the first few weeks of the semester. (Don't be insulted if your first choice turns you down; faculty members, as you know, are incredibly busy! Try another . . . and another, if needed.) At midterm I will ask you for the contact information of your chosen mentor.

Your main responsibilities as the mentee:

1. To research institutions of interest to you and find a faculty member (in your field or a related field) that you would like to have as a PFF mentor (see the syllabus under "Faculty Shadowing Report" for suggestions about how to choose an institution);
2. To contact the faculty member, describe our course, explain the assignment (you may also send the link), and ask if he/she would be willing to serve as your PFF mentor;
3. Once the relationship is established, to arrange for the day-long visit (choosing a mutually convenient date, deciding on details of where and when to meet, arranging parking, etc.);
4. To write up and submit a report on your onsite observations and experiences (see the syllabus for further guidelines); and
5. To thank your mentor profusely!

The main responsibilities of the PFF mentor:

(You should include these expectations in your initial email.)

1. To host the mentee on his/her campus for the equivalent of a day-long shadowing experience (i.e., allow the mentee to accompany and observe the mentor at work according to the rhythms of the day);
2. To provide a departmental and/or campus tour and introduce the mentee to any colleagues and/or administrators who may be available on the day of the visit;
3. To serve as a resource person for the mentee as questions arise regarding faculty work and life at his/her institution; and
4. To offer the mentee advice about how to further prepare as a future faculty member.

The faculty member's formal obligations as a PFF mentor do not extend beyond the current semester.