

MENTORING PLAN FAQ

WHAT IS A MENTORING PLAN?

A mentoring plan is a structured strategy that defines how students or trainees will be mentored on the project to foster growth in performance and/or skills. Participants include students grades 9-12, undergraduate students, graduate students, postdoctoral scholars, professionals, and other individuals.

WHY IS A MENTORING PLAN REQUIRED FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS?

Mentoring is essential in developing the next generation of food and agriculture scientists and professionals.

IS A MENTORING PLAN REQUIRED FOR ALL GRANT TYPES?

A mentoring plan is not required for conference, equipment, and sabbatical grants.

Seed grants, standard grants, and coordinated agricultural project grants that involve student or participant training or mentoring require a mentoring plan.

WHO SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN A MENTORING PLAN?

The groups of students or individual trainees to be mentored on the project, including students grades 9-12, undergraduate students, graduate students, postdoctoral scholars, professionals, and other individuals, should be included in a mentoring plan.

WHAT DETAILS SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN A MENTORING PLAN?

Mentoring plans should describe:

- Past or proposed training of individuals who will serve as mentors, including equipping, mentoring, or monitoring activities they have received or will receive to help them effectively mentor students and trainees during the project.
- Groups of students or individual trainees to be mentored on the project, including students grades 9-12, undergraduate students, graduate students, postdoctoral scholars, professionals, and other individuals.
- Detailed mentoring activities to be delivered throughout the project to each distinct category or group of students and/or trainee participants, including those activities provided through research, education, Extension or outreach and engagement efforts.
- Expected outcomes derived from the mentoring activities and prospective impact(s) on the food and agricultural sciences.

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DOES INFORMATION FROM EACH INSTITUTION NEED TO BE INCLUDED IN THE MENTORING PLAN FOR THOSE WITH CO-PDS FROM MULTIPLE INSTITUTIONS?

Mentoring plans should include information on distinct categories or groups of students and/or trainee participants (including students grades 9-12, undergraduate students, graduate students, postdoctoral scholars, professionals, and other individuals to be trained or mentored on the project) including those activities provided through research, education, Extension or outreach and engagement efforts.

Each institution involved in student or participant training or mentoring activity should be included in a mentoring plan. All student types should be included in the same mentoring plan.

WHAT ARE THE PAGE LIMITS FOR A MENTORING PLAN?

There is a two-page limit for seed grant and standard grant applications and a three-page limit for coordinated agricultural projects.

WHERE DO I INCLUDE A MENTORING PLAN WHEN SUBMITTING MY APPLICATION?

The mentoring plan should be included in Field 12: Other Attachments. Title the attachment as Mentoring Plan and save the file as MentoringPlan.

HOW IS THE MENTORING PLAN EVALUATED DURING PEER REVIEW?

Mentoring Plans will be reviewed for the following:

- Past or proposed training of individuals who will serve as mentors including equipping, mentoring, or monitoring activities they have received or will receive to help them effectively mentor students and trainees.
- Groups of students or individual trainees to be mentored on the project, including students grades 9-12, undergraduate students, graduate students, postdoctoral scholars, professionals, and other individuals.
- Detailed mentoring activities to be delivered throughout the project to each distinct category or group of students and/or trainee participants, including those activities provided through research, education, Extension or outreach and engagement efforts.
- Expected outcomes of mentoring activities and prospective impact(s) on the food and agricultural sciences.

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HOW SHOULD A MENTORING PLAN BE ORGANIZED?

A mentoring plan should be organized by distinct categories or groups of students and/or trainee participants, including students grades 9-12, undergraduate students, graduate students, postdoctoral scholars, professionals, and other individuals.

It should include detailed mentoring activities to be delivered throughout the project to each distinct category or group of students and/or trainee participants, including those activities provided through research, education, Extension or outreach and engagement efforts; and expected outcomes derived from the mentoring activities and prospective impact(s) on the food and agricultural sciences should be specified for each distinct category or group of students and/or trainee participants.

WHAT ARE THE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR A MENTORING PLAN?

Annual and final program reports should include updates and changes to mentoring plans including outcomes derived from mentoring activities and impacts on the food and agricultural sciences.

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