

Urban Alliance

Why Should I Be a Mentor?

TIMELINE

Interns work up to 500 hours over a 9-month period



SEPTEMBER

Interns begin pre-employment training



November

Mentor training



NOVEMBER to MID-JUNE

Interns work part-time Mon. - Thurs. afternoons



MID-JUNE to JULY

Interns work full-time Mon. - Thurs.



JULY

Annual Public Speaking Challenge; Internships end

Urban Alliance is a year-long employment program for under-resourced high school seniors throughout Washington, DC. The program's goal is to give youth access to professional growth and experiences. The program prepares youth for a life of work and self-sufficiency through paid internships, formal training, and mentorship. The mentorship piece is sometimes overlooked, but can truly make or break the young person's experience.

WHAT DOES A MENTOR DO?

An Urban Alliance mentor is more than an on-the-job supervisor - they help to support the intern's personal and professional development. Each mentor serves as a coach for their high school intern throughout the 9-month internship experience, assigning tasks, incorporating the intern into company culture, and guiding them through their first professional experience.

WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT AS A UA MENTOR?

- Interns work part-time during the school year and full-time during the summer, with continuing professional development sessions on Fridays
- Program Coordinators support interns and mentors alike by providing customized resources, site visits, and regular check-ins.
- Mentors receive opportunities for ongoing training, as well as networking with fellow mentors



WHY SHOULD I MENTOR?

As an Urban Alliance mentor, you can:

- Gain management experience
- Give back to your community by guiding a young person's development
- Develop a relationship that can last a lifetime
- Support youth at an important time of growth and transition
- Help develop a pipeline of young talent in your city

As an Urban Alliance mentor, you can:

- Become a **Certified Urban Alliance Mentor** - Earned by attending orientation & completing necessary support tasks. This designation will be given as both a **Certificate** and as a **LinkedIn Recommendation/Certification**
- Gain access to the impressive network of mentors and interact through **UA-Sponsored Networking nights**
- Become recognized in the DC community by earning **Mentor of the Month**, which is announced in a monthly newsletter
- Engage in DC community events by automatically entering raffles for **FREE** tickets

“As an Urban Alliance Mentor, I cherish and appreciate the relationships that I have fostered and maintained with several Urban Alliance students. Knowing that you are enriching a student's life and assisting in their academic and professional growth and development is by far the greatest reward. And, if you keep your eyes and mind open, you just may learn a thing or two from the students along the way!”

- Jeanna Wallace, Mentor from Clark Construction

“[My Mentor, Candace] was a constant source of inspiration throughout the college process and helped me figure out what school would be a good fit for me.”

- Armon Bridges, Intern at Sirius XM Radio