

IACA Analyst Mentor Program Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

The Mentoring Committee will check-in with each pair on a quarterly basis (based on calendar year); however, if either parties have any questions, comments, or concerns, please send an e-mail to mentoring@iaca.net. The purpose of the program is to network and help mentees reach their professional goals. If for any reason you are dissatisfied with the program, please let the Mentoring Committee know so that improvements may be made. Please keep in mind that this is a volunteer operation, and pairings can only be made as volunteers become available. The Mentoring Committee thanks you for your understanding and participation in the program.

1. How much time does the program entail?

The Mentoring Committee asks that mentors and mentees make contact at least once a month, either via e-mail, phone, or other forms of communication; however, frequency is dependent on availability and comfort level of both mentor and mentee.

2. Is there a specific guideline that needs to be followed?

Other than communication, there are no specific goals or guidelines set by the Mentoring Committee. Goals and tasks will be set by the mentor and mentee after the match as each pairing will be unique. For starters, an easy goal to focus on is skill-based – “becoming more efficient in Excel” is an example/topic that a mentor can assist a mentee with.

3. How does the Mentoring Committee decide on matches?

The Mentoring Committee tries to match people based on mentee needs (e.g. Access, automating reports, social media analysis, etc.), demographics (location, agency info, assignment, etc.), and availability (if a mentee is only available once a month, the Mentoring Committee will try to find a mentor who is okay with that schedule and vice versa). Sometimes it doesn't match quite up but the Mentoring Committee believes a mentor does not necessarily need to know all the answers, but would be able to help their mentee get to an answer and grow professionally.

4. What if it isn't a good match?

If for whatever the reason the match is not beneficial or communication is not at a level that is desired, the Mentoring Committee will do a rematch.

5. How long does the program last?

The pairing is intended to last 6-12 months, but if the pair decides to continue with their match, they may do so.

6. How long does it take to get matched?

This depends on the availability of mentors and/or mentees – matches have been made within 24 hours while others may take more than a few months as no mentors and/or mentees were available at the time.

7. Are there any compensation?

Mentors receive free membership for their active participation in the program.