Mentorship Experience

The premiere feature of the PFF experience is a mentorship with a faculty member at a PFF partner institution. After being matched with a mentor from a corresponding field of study, graduate students make between three and four visits to their mentor’s school. Many PFF fellows find the mentorship experience to be the most helpful and rewarding aspect of the program, and often they maintain lasting professional relationships with their PFF mentors.

In past years, Ohio State PFF fellows and faculty mentors have engaged in a variety of activities designed to expose PFF fellows to the culture of their mentor's institution. The specific activities pursued within the mentorship are jointly selected by the graduate student and their faculty mentor. Typical activities may include:

- Observing classes in the mentor's department
- Discussing hiring, faculty review, and tenure processes
- Discussing teaching philosophies, methodologies, and practices
- Presenting a workshop or seminar based on the student’s research
- Touring lab/clinical/computer facilities
- Speaking with undergraduate students about graduate school life
- Visiting departmental and university governance meetings
- Designing a mock or new course for a liberal arts setting
- Discussing successful academic career development
- Delivering a practice job talk and participating in a mock interview process
- Discussing the research culture of the institution as well as possibilities for collaborative research with undergraduates and other departments
- Pursuing activities specific to a mentor and his or her host campus

"How to Get the Mentoring You Want"  University of Michigan, Rackham School of Graduate Studies