



FALL 2021

Please be advised that after careful consideration, ACE Mentor National has adopted the policy of requiring that all engagement between ACE mentors and students is to be conducted virtually, as opposed to in person, until further notice.

This announcement is terribly disappointing, since just a few weeks ago it seemed that COVID-19 was behind us and we could resume in person mentoring. Unfortunately, matters reversed rapidly with the Delta variant. We trust that all concerned recognize that our commitment to the health and safety of our students and mentors must be a priority.

As always, we are deeply committed to the mission of introducing students to careers in Architecture, Construction and Engineering, and we understand that in person mentoring surely has its advantages over doing so virtually. We intend to reevaluate this policy frequently, since the surge of the Delta variant is continuing to evolve with new data and protocols emerging rapidly.

As stated, we will be revisiting this policy regularly, and certainly no later than early October. This timing will allow the Delta surge to progress and for school districts to experience at least one month of in person learning and potentially make needed adjustments. As you will note, this approach is similar to how we handled the beginning of the last school year, which allowed the first weeks to help guide ACE in moving forward.

To be clear, remote/virtual mentoring must be the approach used until further notice. Mentors, should they choose to meet without students, are to be guided by their respective company's policies.

ACE National is not adopting this policy lightly. Please also know that ACE National considered alternatives, and did so in consultation with a leading virologist, the Clinical Director of the Division of Infectious Diseases and a Professor of Medicine from Johns Hopkins (who has guided the National Football League). Another key consideration that we carefully reviewed relates to limitations in the insurance coverage that both ACE National and the affiliates maintain. As a result, we followed the clear and prudent path forward that not only serves the health of our mentors and students, but also prudently addresses potentially uninsured exposures to the ACE Mentor program, both Nationally and locally.

While this announcement is surely disappointing, we must strike the right balance that enables our mission to continue during the crisis, sustains our ability to serve for many years to come, and protects the health and safety of our students and mentors.

Thank you