



First-Generation Harvard Alumni Mentorship Program

FGHA mentorship

The First Generation Harvard Alumni (FGHA) Special Interest Group (SIG) has paired Harvard alumni who were first in their families to attend college with current Harvard undergraduates who have similar backgrounds.

Harvard College mentees have responded enthusiastically to the program since it started in 2012.

This mentoring program gives current undergraduate students access to alumni who have already faced the experiences of transitioning to and navigating the Harvard environment. Alumni mentors are familiar with the economic, social, emotional, and logistical challenges of being the first person in one's family to attend college.

During the 2015-16 academic year, we paired 115 alumni with over 130 Harvard incoming undergraduate students. We try to match mentors and mentees based on academic and professional interests, and geographic proximity.

The Mentorship Program sponsors on-campus events during the school year to connect first-generation Harvard students with one another and with local alumni.

Why participate?

Past mentors:	Past mentees:
"The ongoing relationship with the students is wonderful. I enjoy being seen as a resource and it allows me to maintain a meaningful connection to the college."	"My mentor was an amazing support in tough times, when I thought I did not belong to Harvard."
"I was honored to witness my mentee's journey and I can only hope that I was helpful, simply by being there."	"My mentor consistently checked in on me and supported me."
"I was able to help my mentee answer questions that I had my freshman year that I had not felt comfortable asking anyone."	"My mentor reminded me that everyone in Harvard has the opportunity to succeed."



Eligibility

You're eligible to be a mentor if:

- You graduated from Harvard College or any Harvard graduate school.
- You were a first-generation college student at your undergraduate institution.
- You can devote 2 hours a month to mentor a Harvard undergraduate, virtually or in person, during the 2016-17 school year. You can be a valuable resource for a current student even if you aren't near Cambridge.

We encourage all of you who fit the above to apply. **In particular**, we are seeking **alumni who can mentor students in the following areas**: Medicine, the arts, and law, as well as students who self-identify as Latino/Hispanic, Women in Science, First-Generation Immigrant, and Women in Business. **So if you can connect with students in these areas, we highly encourage you to apply to be a mentor!**

Applying to be a mentor

Sign up through our online application, which should take no more than 30 minutes:

<http://www.bit.ly/fghamentor2016>

About FGHA

First Generation Harvard Alumni is a group of Harvard alumni who are the first members of their families to attend college and who seek to support current first-generation students. As an officially recognized Shared Interest Group of the Harvard Alumni Association, our mission is to continue to help make Harvard a better place for current first-generation Harvard students. We achieve this through mentoring, advocacy, and well as by providing networking opportunities.

How to get involved in FGHA:

- Subscribe to the FGHA SIG list: <https://lists.hcs.harvard.edu/mailman/listinfo/first-gen-sig>
- Visit <http://www.firstgenerationharvardalumni.com>
- Join the FGHA Facebook and LinkedIn groups
 - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/harvardfirstgenalumni>
 - <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8383166>

If you have any questions, please email FGHA Mentorship Director Rafael Burgos-Mirabal at rafael@post.harvard.edu