

College Access and Post-Secondary Program (CAPS) Mentorship Information

What?

BCNC's Youth Center College Access and Post-Secondary (CAPS) Program matches mentors with high school juniors and seniors to equip our youth with the tools and knowledge necessary for their pathways after high school. Some youth may be seeking advice on how to apply to and afford college. Other youth may be considering alternate trajectories, such as attending a vocational school, taking a gap year, or entering the workforce immediately after graduation. And some youth may be unsure of their next steps. If matched, mentors would provide one-on-one attention and support to their mentee as they navigate their post-secondary options.

Young people who are first-generation, low-income, English language learning, and/or recent immigrants are particularly encouraged to join CAPS. As a mentor, you are expected to create a safe and inclusive space for the young person to explore their interests and future goals.

How?

As a mentor in the CAPS Program, you will:

- Provide one-on-one mentoring during your mentee's junior and/or senior academic years;
- Follow curriculum, lesson plans, and checklists provided by BCNC staff;
- Establish and maintain a positive and trusting relationship with your mentee;
- Help identify and gather application materials with your mentee where necessary;
- Guide your mentee to articulate their ideas, experiences, and stories for determining their next steps;
- Regularly discuss with your mentee about their needs, questions, and hopes for their post-secondary plans.

When?

During your mentee's junior year, you will meet with them every other week, for at least an hour at a time. Meetings can occur in-person or virtually, dependent upon the young person's preference and ease of access. As a junior mentor, you are required to attend two initial mentor trainings, prior to the match orientation where you meet your mentee.

During your mentee's senior year, you will connect with them at least once a week through the fall and winter, to provide intensive guidance on their post-secondary plans. If your mentee is applying to college, you will support them as they write their college essays, prepare documents, and complete applications. If they are seeking employment, you will support them through the job search and application process as well. As a senior mentor, you are required to attend the senior orientation as well as a training on financial aid and a mid-year gathering.

Who?

We are looking for volunteers who:

- Have completed a college degree;
- Have experience with or interest in working with youth;
- Have familiarity with the issues that Asian American, Asian diasporic, and immigrant youth currently face;
- Want to give back to the community;
- Are proficient or bilingual in Mandarin, Cantonese, or Taishanese (preferable, but not required);
- Are knowledgeable of the college application and financial aid processes;
- Can commit to the duration of the program and serve as a mentor from at least the start of the mentee's junior year to the middle of their senior year;
- Have easy access to the Greater Boston area and/or reliable Internet access.