**Student Mentorship Program**

*Organized by the AMS Board of Private Sector Meteorologists*

Frequently Asked Questions and answers by actual students:

1. What if I don’t know what to do with my career?

“I applied to the program because I wanted a different perspective in the meteorology field. At the time, I was preparing to graduate from college and I couldn't solidify the area I wanted to work in. My interests are so versatile, I could go anywhere. I hoped to communicate with a professional, to receive advice with the transition between college and the workforce, and to determine the best style for my resume so I can sell myself to a potential job. My mentor has been great thus far, satisfying the expectations I had.”

1. Will the mentorship program help my job search?

“I applied to this mentor program to expedite my job search and grow my network in energy meteorology. As I have gone through the program, Mike Ventrice, my mentor, and I have made progress with not only our professional relationship but also personal. He has given me contacts to follow on social media, sent me prospective jobs, and given advice on resumes and interviews. This program has been everything I have wanted it to be so far.”

1. What if I’m a grad student? Would it be worth applying having been stuck in academia/research?

“I chose to apply for the AMS BPSM Mentorship program because I am a first year grad student in meteorology with a B.S. in physics. I felt that, compared to my peers, I know very little about all of the opportunities that are available for meteorologists in the workforce. Many of my peers would like to get a PhD or go into research for their career after getting their M.S., although I would rather get a job upon completion of my M.S. and I would like to figure out exactly what type of job I’d enjoy the most. My mentor has been a great help to me so far in this journey.”

4. What if I don’t know if I want to go into the private of public sector?

“I chose to apply for the BPSM program because I didn’t know if I was interested in pursuing a job in the private or public sectors. I didn’t really know much about what a job in the private sector really entailed or what types of private sector jobs even existed. Going in, my hope was to learn enough about each area of the private sector (commodities vs. risk management vs. energy) that I would have a better idea of what kind of job in which sector would be best suited for me by the time I finish graduate school. My mentor is teaching about how the private sector operates and I am learning so much on a daily basis.”

5. How will the mentorship program help me with networking?

“I chose to apply for this program because it sounded like a great opportunity to network and have an extra pair of eyes reviewing my resume and cover letters besides the advisors available on campus. I was able to meet with my mentor at the AMS Student Conference in Seattle last month actually and that was very rewarding, meeting face to face like that. He inquired after my interests and studies and gave me advice on what skills to work on and where to look for jobs when the time comes up. I am still in email contact with my mentor and will continue to discuss what options and opportunities will come up for me after graduations.”

6. What can I learn about the private sector of meteorology?

“I initially chose to apply for the mentorship program because I wanted to learn about what a private sector meteorology work environment entailed, along with what types of private sector work are available for someone pursuing a career in meteorology. Additionally, I thought the experience would be a good resume builder, along with a unique opportunity to possibly get to work with someone who is employed in private sector meteorology. My mentor taught me all about her experiences in the private sector. They definitely help make a decision on a career choice.”

7. I know I want to go into the private sector. But I don’t know what area (Risk management, forecasting, insurance, etc.) I want to go into?

“I chose to apply for the BPSM program because I knew I was interested in pursuing a job in the private sector, but I didn’t really know much about what a job in the private sector really entailed or what types of private sector jobs even existed. Once accept to the program you get matched up with a mentor that suites your interests. This greatly helped me decide what type of career I wanted in the private sector and I know have a full time job doing what I wanted.”

8. What if I am incredibly busy and won’t have the most flexible time to talk to my mentor?

“I applied for the mentorship program because I know that I want to work in the private sector after graduating with my master's degree. I was worried about not being able to participate in the program due to my schedule. My mentor was very flexible and was able to work around my schedule. Being able to have personal interactions with someone who was so flexible was very beneficial to jumpstarting my career and the professional advice she gave me was invaluable.”

9. What kind of careers can I pursue in the private sector for Meteorology?

“I decided to apply for this mentorship as I did not have any previous experience in the private sector of meteorology. It has been very important for me to explore careers in this field while in my undergraduate career, and private sector was one I was left with limited knowledge about coming into my senior year. Through this mentorship, I was expecting to learn more about different positions within private sector meteorology such as forensics, consulting, etc., and can happily say that I have thoroughly been introduced to these positions and much more.”

10. How long is the mentorship program?

“The mentorship program typically lasts an entire semester or a full academic year. But mentors and mentees are encouraged to continue the relationship after the assigned period to help expand their professional networks.”