GPA Mentor Program | 2027 Schedule

To support this year's applicants, the GPA Mentor Program Committee is sharing a detailed program schedule to encourage increased participation and ensure Mentees attend at least four of the six sessions. Some details are still in progress, and the schedule will be updated as additional information becomes available.

Session #1 | Making Connections

How can the connections you make today help shape your career tomorrow? Kick off the program by meeting fellow participants, building relationships, and learning from one another in a welcoming and engaging environment. Participants will connect with their Peer Groups, begin expanding their professional networks, and establish relationships that can support them throughout the program and beyond.

Date: January 26, 2027
Time: 5:30 PM – 8:30 PM (Refreshments Provided)
Location: Condesa Coffee (480 John Wesley Dobbs Ave NE Unit 100, Atlanta, GA 30312)

Session #2 | Learning from Leaders

What does long-term success in planning look like? Experienced planning professionals discuss career growth, leadership, and the value of professional development. Through lessons learned, career reflections, and insights on credentials such as AICP, participants will gain practical guidance for navigating the opportunities and challenges of a planning career.

Date: February 2027
Time: TBD
Location: Microsoft Teams

Session #3 | Building Your Brand

How do you position yourself for future opportunities? This interactive session focuses on the skills and tools that help professionals stand out and advance, including networking, communication, presentation skills, and professional presence. Participants will leave with strategies for strengthening their personal brand and a professional headshot that reflects it.

Date: March 2027
Time: TBD
Location: TBD (In Person)

Session #4 | Knowing Your Strengths

What kind of leader do you aspire to be? Through an exploration of CPI260 assessment results, participants will gain a deeper understanding of their leadership style, communication preferences, and professional strengths. Armed with greater self-awareness, participants will identify opportunities for growth, strengthen their effectiveness, and develop a clearer path toward their leadership goals.

Date: April 21, 2027
Time: 12 PM – 1:30 PM
Location: Microsoft Teams

Session #5 | Planning in Practice

How do planning decisions shape the communities we experience every day? This guided site visit connects professional development with real-world practice by exploring how planning, zoning, design, and stakeholder collaboration influence development outcomes. Participants will gain a deeper appreciation for the decision-making processes that shape communities and the role planners play in creating great places.

Date: May 2027
Time: TBD
Location: TBD

Session #6 | Exploring Possibilities

Where can a planning career take you next? Meet planners from a variety of sectors and learn about the diverse opportunities available within the profession. As the program concludes, participants will explore potential career paths while reflecting on the relationships, skills, and insights that can support their continued growth and advancement.

Date: June 2027
Time: TBD
Location: Microsoft Teams