

# PENCIL Career Explorers 2024 Overview

Each Summer, PENCIL supports a cohort of students engaged in a paid work-based learning experience designed to promote career awareness, exploration and preparation. Students in the PENCIL Career Explorers Program are paired with a professional mentor to provide regular guidance and feedback, as well as create networking and other career exploration opportunities. Each student will complete an industry-specific capstone project under the guidance of a professional mentor who can provide technical expertise and experience to inform and guide their work.

Students and mentors will function as members of an industry cohort, and have opportunities throughout the program to connect, share experiences and support each student's project development. Students work under the supervision of PENCIL staff who connect with students daily to provide support and ensure they meet all deadlines and deliverables, as well as organize cohort-wide networking activities and career readiness workshops.

## PROGRAM OUTLINE:

**Schedule:** Career Explorers takes place over a six-week period from July 1st to August 9th. Students complete 25 hours of synchronous and asynchronous activities each week and are paid \$16 per hour.

**Mentor Commitments:** Mentors are asked to dedicate two hours to the Career Explorers Program including a weekly hour check in with their student, participation in a 60-90-minute networking session, and response to student outreach (email, text, call) between mentoring sessions. Mentors are also asked to connect their student to professionals in their network to support the collaboration component of their individual projects and career exploration activities across the cohort.

**Capstone Projects:** PENCIL staff will work with each student and their mentor to tailor their project to reflect both the student's specific learning goals and the mentor's areas of expertise.

**Each capstone project represents approximately 12 hours of independent work and is defined by:**

SPECIFIC LEARNING GOALS	MENTORSHIP	RESEARCH-BASED COMPONENT	COLLABORATION	DELIVERABLES
Each student will identify 3-4 learning goals focused on industry specific skills or knowledge.	Students and mentors participate in a weekly 30 minute 'face to face' check in. Students will prepare a written agenda outlining progress, challenges and questions related to their project.	This may include competitor analysis, surveying, industry best practices, etc.	Students are asked to request input or support from other cohort members or cohort supervisor.	All projects will have weekly deliverables and a final deliverable that students will present within their industry cohort.

**2024 Cohorts Industries Include: Law, Business, Finance, Tech, & Healthcare**

**Cohort Activities:** Each industry cohort will participate in weekly activities developed and facilitated by PENCIL staff to promote industry exploration, skill building, network development, and in person Enrichment Days.

\*Career Explorers Program is primarily virtual.

