TerpsThrive FAQs

Do I have to be in Maryland or a specific area to participate?
No. The program will pair people based on their goals rather than geography so you can be anywhere with an internet connection and participate.

Is it possible to mentor someone without being paired with someone who helps me achieve my own goals?
No. We appreciate you wanting to mentor other Terps but want to make this a reciprocating community so all participants get as much out of the program as possible. If you're only interested in mentoring others, feel free to join Terrapins Connect where students and alumni can reach out to you as a mentor in your area of expertise.

Is it possible to have someone mentor me without me having to help someone else achieve their goals?
No. We appreciate your focus but want to make this a reciprocating community so all participants get as much out of the program as possible. If you're only interested in finding a mentor, feel free to join Terrapins Connect where you can reach out to other alumni who have indicated they're interested in mentoring other Terps.

What is the difference between a peer, a mentor and an accountability buddy for the individual matches?
Peers, mentors and accountability buddies are all types of relationships that help people achieve their goals. They do not need to be mutually exclusive as a mentor can check in with you like an accountability buddy would and a peer can offer you great advice like a mentor. To be more specific:

An accountability buddy helps you by checking in on your progress and providing encouragement rather than specific knowledge.
A peer also helps hold you accountable but is also working through a similar goal so the two of you support each other to achieve your goals.
A mentor has specific knowledge or experience related to your goal that may help you to be successful in addition to helping to hold you accountable.

When you enter your goal(s) for the program, you'll select which kind of match you think would help you most which will help us pair you. For example, if your goal is to lose 50 pounds in 2020, you could select an accountability buddy, peer or mentor based on what kind of match you think would help you. For this goal, an accountability buddy would check in with you and offer support, a peer would have a similar goal and the two of you would work through losing weight together while a mentor with experience as a trainer would give you specific advice to help you on your weight loss journey. No match type is better or worse as each type of pairing can be valuable depending on the goal and the person.

My goal is very specific, how will you find a mentor for me?
Our goal is to pair you with the best person possible from the Terps Thrive community for your specific goal. It's very possible that no one in the program has experience with your specific goal. If that is the case, we would pair you with an accountability buddy who helps keep you on
track by checking in on your progress even if they’ve never, for example, taken the CPA exam themselves.

**But what if I don’t have enough experience to be a mentor?**
If you’re concerned that you don’t have enough experience to be a mentor to someone else, please don’t worry! Many people may have similar goals to you where the two of you can support each other as peers rather than formal mentors (e.g. you’re both looking to eat healthier in 2020.) Similarly, some people don’t need a formal mentor to achieve their goals as much as an accountability buddy who checks in with them regularly, offers encouragement and helps keep them on track (e.g. someone writing a book may not need advice from another author, just someone to check in with them once per month to make sure they are on track with the manuscript.) If you genuinely want to help others achieve their goals we’ll definitely be able to find a way for you to help someone else as part of the program.