New Mentor FAQ

Q. I just became a Math Alliance Faculty Mentor, what does that mean?

A. As a Faculty Mentor, you can nominate students from your school for our programs, such as becoming a Scholar, the F-GAP program, or to attend the annual Field of Dreams the Conference.

Being a mentor also means, you will receive our newsletter each month so that you will hear our latest announcements and know what is happening in our community. We also send e-mails to our whole community about specific opportunities or items of interest to the community.

Q. Does the Math Alliance assign me students to mentor?

A. Not usually. We rely on you, our Mentors, to identify students meeting our Scholar description from your home institution and nominate them for our programs and/or to become a Math Alliance Scholar. We need you to identify the students at your institution who might be interested in pursuing quantitative science areas in graduate school, so that they can participate in our programs and we can all work together to help the students.

We do however assign students to Mentors through the F-GAP program, but that is a separate process that Mentors have to opt-in to participate in each year.

Q. How do I nominate students for your programs?

A. Below are instructions on how to nominate for each program. Please read the criteria students should meet before nominating any students:

- To nominate a student as a Math Alliance Scholar, you can do that anytime of the year with a form on our website.
- To nominate a student for **F-GAP**, there is an announcement that goes out via email, the website, and the newsletter with a link to the nomination form each year. There is window of time to nominate for this program, usually, spring through fall. A student does not need to already be a Math Alliance Scholar to be nominated, but their nomination to F-GAP will also nominate them as a Math Alliance Scholar.
- To nominate a student to attend the **Field of Dreams of Conference**, there is an announcement that goes out via email, the website, and the newsletter with a link to the nomination form each year. There is window of time to nominate for this program, usually, a couple of months in the fall. A student does not need to be a Math Alliance Scholar to be nominated.

    Items to note:

- Scholars are not automatically invited to the Field of Dreams Conference, they must be nominated by a Mentor, even if they have attended a previous Field of Dreams Conference.
- Current F-GAP students don't need to be nominated to attend the conference. They are automatically considered for attendance; they just need to be actively participating in the F-GAP program.
- If a student wants to participate in F-GAP a second year, they need to be nominated again, and then they must apply to the program again.

Q. **How do I make changes to my mentor webpage or the information the Math Alliance has for me?**

A. You can email Rebecca (lankr at purdue.edu) and she will make any changes you request. Please remember, if you change schools, to let us know so we can keep your webpage up to date.

Q. **How does the Field of Dreams Conference work for the students that are accepted?**

A. The Math Alliance covers all the expenses of the conference for invited predoctoral Scholars. When students are invited to the Field of Dreams Conference, the Math Alliance pays for their travel expenses (flight, bus, train, or mileage depending on how far they are from the conference location), their hotel stay during the conference, and their registration fees (which includes their meals). In a normal year we fly the students in on Thursday night to the conference city and the conference is held Friday morning through Saturday night. The students are flown home on Sunday morning. We pay the students expenses up front, we do not reimburse them later, unless, they insist on something special and/or there is a special circumstance that prevents us from paying the expense beforehand. Also, students share rooms. We resumed this practice in 2023, and students should expect this will be the standard practice.