

2009-2010 Practice Academy Program



Overview

The AIA is pleased to announce the second request for proposals for the Practice Academy Initiative to prepare students for architectural practice and professional advancement through partnerships between the academy and firms. Goals of the Practice Academy are

- To develop mutually beneficial programs for students, interns, faculty, and practitioners;
- For students to learn from/in a practice environment;
- For faculty to enrich students' experiences in firms;
- For students to reflect on experiences in education and in practice;
- For students to apply knowledge to real-world situations;
- For firms to strengthen students' preparedness for practice;
- For practitioners to be involved in the conversation about education;
- To serve as an incubator for curricular initiatives;
- To provide opportunities for practitioners to teach, mentor and recruit;
- To challenge or transform our preconceptions about the boundaries between academia and practice.

Grants of up to \$10,000.00 will be awarded for a one-year period to support new initiatives and/or for special initiatives that are part of an existing program. Programs may begin in Fall 2009 or Spring 2010, with planning undertaken in the preceding semester. A plan for continuation of the program beyond the first year is required. The number of programs to be selected will be determined by the selection committee.

Eligibility

Either an architecture firm or school may submit a proposal for the Practice Academy Initiative. The participating school must be a NAAB-accredited or candidate program and ACSA member in the United States or Canada. Recipients who participated in the pilot program 2006-09 may not apply for another grant at this time. Requirements for submission are provided below.

Pilot programs 2006-09

In 2006, the AIA issued the first request for proposals for practice academy models to support the growth and development of emerging professionals. Three programs were selected and have been developing concurrently over a period of three years, with a total of \$30,000.00 provided for each three-year program. The outcomes and insights from these programs will be posted on the AIA Web site as a resource for future programs.

Though the three pilot programs varied, participants valued the opportunity to meet with other grant recipients as their programs evolved. Similarly, in order to support the exchange of ideas, the AIA will facilitate communication among new programs selected in 2009. All programs are

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required to prepare reports on the outcomes of their initiatives so that information and experiences may be shared with a broader audience.

Proposed timeline for new programs*

The following timeline is subject to review and may be revised.

January 9, 2009	AIA issues new Request for Proposals
April 20, 2009	Submissions are due by 5:00 pm Eastern.
May 8-9, 2009	Advisory Committee** meets to review proposals; short list of programs compiled: phone interviews may be conducted.
June 1, 2009	Announcement of selected programs***
September 2009	Programs may begin in the Fall or may begin with planning in the Fall and implementation in the Spring of 2010.
January 2010	Interim report will be due.
July 2010	Final reports will be due in July. Dates will be specified in an agreement between the AIA and the program.
January 2011	Final reports due for programs implemented in the calendar year of 2010.

Notes:

*Program representatives may be invited to present their work at an AIA, ACSA or other related conference or event during or following the first year of selected programs.

** The Practice Academy Advisory Committee that has served in an advisory capacity for the initial pilot programs and will meet to review new proposals. The form and role of an advisory committee in the future is to be determined.

*** Upon selection, the sponsoring organization will enter into a contractual agreement with the AIA. The contract will be provided by the AIA.

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Submission requirements

All proposals for the Practice Academy Initiative must include a written proposal following the format provided below and letters of support as follows:

- Letter of support from the dean or administrator with direct oversight of the architecture program
- Letter of intent from the architecture firm(s) indicating an understanding of the program and interest in participating
- Other endorsements as seen fit by the institution or firm, not to exceed 7 total (including 2 required above)

The primary individual sponsoring the proposal or a designated alternate should be available by phone on May 9, 2009 or as scheduled in advance to answer questions that may arise concerning the proposal.

Proposals should be submitted in electronic form. Exceptions may be the letters of support listed above and contact information provided on the forms below.

AIA contact information

If you have questions, please contact Catherine Roussel at croussel@aia.org or 202.626.7417. Proposals should be submitted by e-mail or for large files, please submit an electronic file on a CD and mail to the attention of Catherine M. Roussel, AIA, Director, Education at The American Institute of Architects, 1735 New York Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20006.

Evaluation criteria

The Practice Academy Advisory Committee will review proposals based on four criteria, noted below:

1. Commitment of academy and firm—The proposal must document commitment by faculty members, the architecture program, and the university or the firm principals to the design and implementation of the practice academy model program.
2. Well-developed program outline—The proposal must include a clear and defined approach to student learning within the context of the practice academy. Universities and firms should indicate to the extent possible the structure of the proposed program as well as faculty and professionals who will be participating.
3. Strong firm or school partnerships—The proposal must demonstrate that the school of architecture and/or university has committed relationships with architecture firms and/or the firm must demonstrate the commitment of the partner school to the program.
4. Ability of university and firm to deliver services as proposed—The proposal must include the supporting material and justification outlining how university and firm resources are appropriate for the unique program that is proposed.

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Proposal

Program title

University, School/Department Name and/or firm name

City, State

Primary individual(s) sponsoring this submission

will be available for a phone interview on May 9, 2009 or as scheduled in advance

First Name

Last Name

Title

Address

City, State

ZIP

Phone

Fax

E-mail

Signature

Date

Alternate contact for this submission

will be available for a phone interview on May 9, 2009 or as scheduled in advance

First Name

Last Name

Title

Address

City, State

ZIP

Phone

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Proposal

Program title

Timeline of proposed Practice Academy program implementation

- Fall 2009
- Spring 2010
- Fall 2010
- Other: _____

A. Program description

Provide an abstract on the school's/firm's specific goals and approach to achieving the goals of the program and of the Practice Academy Initiative as stated above. Describe methodology to be used by the institution in determining progress and success of the program. This summary should include a plan of the program structure, schedule, and activities, etc. (up to 1000 words)

B. Participants, students and interns

Describe proposed participants in the program, how they will be recruited and how student learning will be evaluated. (limit to one page)

C. Individuals leading the program

List individuals in the school and in firms that will be leading the program. Include discussion of roles and responsibilities as well as statement of their qualifications, limited to a one-page biography of each person.

D. Estimated project expenses

Provide a narrative describing proposed use of funding and plans to support continuation of the program beyond the funded period. Itemize estimated expenses for each proposed activity. The AIA will not allow funding to be charged for overhead. (limit to one page)