# Odyssey Program FAQs

1. What is the Odyssey Program?
   a. The Odyssey Program is a mentoring program that pairs our experienced members (mentors) with members who are new or seeking to learn how to advance their careers in the field (mentees).

2) How long is the commitment to the Odyssey Program?
   a. The Odyssey Program runs for 12 months beginning in January.

3) Do I need to be an SRAI member to participate in the Odyssey Program?
   a. Yes, you must be an active SRAI member to participate in the Odyssey Program.

4) What types of mentoring pairings does the Odyssey Program offer?
   a. The Odyssey Program offers 1:1 pairings and group pairings of 1 mentor and 2-3 mentees. Your preference is requested on the application to participate.

5) How will I communicate with my mentor/mentee?
   a. The means of communication is decided between the mentor and mentee, and can include meeting virtually, by email, telephone, and/or in person if able.

6) How frequently do I meet with my mentor/mentee?
   a. The frequency of meetings is up to the mentor/mentee(s). They can decide what works best for their schedules and allows enough time to work on intended program goals.

7) How many times can I apply to be in the Odyssey Program?
   a. Unlimited. We are happy to take previous mentors and mentees again for new cohorts each year. It is important to make sure you have the capacity to actively engage in mentoring during the intended cohort year and that you have goals to work on.

8) Can I apply to be a mentor and mentee at the same time?
   a. Yes, you can serve both as a mentor and mentee within the same cohort, but you will be in different groups/pairs based on your role. Additionally, you need to complete both a mentor and mentee application for the program.

9) I previously served as a mentor; can I apply to be a mentee? I previously served as a mentee; can I apply to be a mentor?
   a. Yes, you can apply to be a mentor or mentee for a new cohort no matter what role you previously served in the Odyssey Program.

10) Can I be paired with my current mentor/ mentee for a second year?
    a. If a mentor and mentee want to continue to meet and work on goals together beyond the initial 12-month program period, they are welcome to do so without the oversight of the Odyssey Program.

11) When does the Odyssey Program start and when are applications due?
    a. Applications for the Odyssey Program open in October, and pairs are informed before the end of December. New cohorts for start in January.

12) What happens if I can't get a hold of my mentor/mentee?
    a. If you are having difficulty getting in touch with your mentor or mentee(s) after several attempts, please reach out to the Odyssey Committee for assistance at membership@srainternational.org.

13) How important is it for me to have specific goals for the Odyssey process?
    a. Having specific goals helps structure the mentoring meetings and allows the mentor and mentee(s) to learn from each other in meaningful ways.

14) What happens if our selected goals are met earlier than the 12 months of the program?
    a. Both mentor and mentee(s) should discuss how they would like to proceed. They could start a new goal and continue working together, or they can opt to end early based on their availability.

**Additional Tips for a Successful Mentoring Relationship**

- It is important for the mentor and mentee(s) to set a specific goal for the outcome of the program.
- Explore potential areas in your home institutions that may offer insights, resources, or trainings on the topic of your goal. These are important to discuss during your mentor/mentee meetings.
- Determine your time commitment to becoming a mentor or mentee. Consider how often you would like to meet, how much time you can commit to assignments or resources, and if your commitment will support completing your goal.
- Check if you need approval from your institution or supervisor prior to participating in the Odyssey Program.
- Consider keeping a journal with notes about your meetings, discussions, and steps taken while achieving your goal.
- Think about how you measure your goals and professional development, and how this can be utilized in achieving this program.