



Journal of *Prevention Science* Early Career Reviewer Program: Request for Applications

Due Date: September 8, 2025

Overview:

The Prevention Science Early Career Reviewer Program aims to both mentor early career researchers in prevention science and increase the pool of possible reviewers. We invite emerging prevention scientists to apply to serve a 2-year term as mentored reviewers for the journal *Prevention Science*. Candidates apply for the position, and as part of that application process, they identify and secure a commitment from a prevention science mentor to supervise their appointment to the review board for the 2-year period. The candidate commits to providing up to four reviews each year; the mentor commits to co-reviewing and co-authoring the review to ensure high quality reviews. The candidate will serve as the reviewer of record in the online review system.

Purpose:

The Prevention Science Early Career Reviewer Program aims to 1) provide a mentored training experience to early career prevention scientists; 2) increase the pool and pipeline of quality reviewers for *Prevention Science*; 3) promote greater connection between the journal and the Society for Prevention Research (SPR) Early Career Preventionist Network (ECPN) regarding scholarship; and 4) promote greater visibility of the journal and SPR among early career scholars working in the field of prevention science. The overarching goal is to foster appreciation for and enhanced understanding of and participation in the peer-review process among early career scholars in the prevention science field.

Recognition/Benefits:

Early career reviewers and their mentors will be acknowledged at the next annual SPR meeting, during the conference awards ceremony. The early career reviewers will have their name published in the journal as a member of the editorial board.

Eligibility of Early Career Candidates:

Eligible mentees are advanced doctoral candidates (i.e., doctoral students approved for candidacy) or recent graduates within 2 years of receiving their doctorate degree who have an interest and developing expertise in prevention science. Given that the goal of this program is to provide a mentored experience to develop skills in conducting journal reviews, candidates who already regularly review for this or other journals, or have extensive prior review experience (e.g., eight or more prior reviews) are often considered overqualified for this program and thus will have a reduced likelihood of being selected to participate in the mentored program.

Candidates from different disciplines are encouraged to apply, particularly those with interest and expertise in drug, alcohol, and tobacco use and abuse; psychiatric disorders and other mental health problems; suicide; HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases; delinquency, crime, and violence; child abuse; cancer; diabetes; obesity; cardiovascular disease; marital and couple distress; adolescent

pregnancy; school and work participation performance; physical illness and injury; research methods and study design; health equity; and implementation science.

The candidate will illustrate their fit with the aims of this program within their cover letter and CV submitted as part of the application process. The candidate and the mentor do not need to be at the same institution, but the expectation is for regular communication and interaction regarding the reviews, regardless of location/institution.

Eligibility and Expectations of Mentors:

Mentors are more established prevention science researchers with at least 8 years of post-doctorate research experience in the field. Although current members of the editorial board are encouraged to pair with candidates to apply for this program, the program is not limited to board members. Mentors are required to agree in writing on the applicant's cover letter that they will serve as a co-reviewer with the candidate for the 2-year editorial term. This includes but is not limited to reading and discussing the original manuscript with the candidate and providing edits/comments on drafts of the review prior to submission through the journal's online editorial review portal. It is the expectation of the journal that the mentor is co-reviewing the manuscript with the candidate.

Application Process:

- Applicants identify a potential mentor with expertise in prevention science; the selection and matching are the responsibility of the candidate. The mentor should be identified in the application and must provide their written commitment to serve as a mentor.
- The application packet includes the following:
 - Two-page cover letter that describes why this is an important opportunity to advance the candidate's career, skills, and/or expertise related to prevention science research. The cover letter should include information regarding:
 - The mentee's eligibility
 - The relevance of the mentee's research interests to prevention science
 - The mentee's potential as a prevention scientist and commitment to prevention science
 - The mentee's track record of publishing and dissemination
 - The mentee's previous reviewing experience
 - The mentor's expertise in prevention science
 - The cover letter should be co-signed by the candidate and by the mentor, who explicitly agrees to serve in the mentorship role.
 - CV of the candidate clearly indicating that mentee is eligible (i.e., will be a doctoral candidate by the date of application deadline or is within 2 years of receiving their doctorate).
 - CV of the mentor.

Timeline:

- The application is due **September 8, 2025**. All application materials should be submitted electronically via email to SPRECPN@gmail.com with the subject line "PS EC Reviewer Application Your Name".
- Applicants will be notified via email of the results of the selection in late October.
- Public acknowledgement will occur at the 2026 SPR conference awards ceremony.