What is the Peer Mentoring Program?

Student Life and Leadership developed the CSUSM Peer Mentoring Program to provide new students from traditionally underserved and underrepresented backgrounds with a platform to thrive during their first year at CSUSM. Mentees will embark on their collegiate journey with the support and leadership of their Peer Mentors.

The CSUSM Peer Mentoring Program cultivates first-year students’ academic and social transition into college life. Students will develop a sense of community within the university, gain exposure to campus life, increase their awareness of university programs and much more.

The Peer Mentoring Program enables returning students to improve the collegiate experience of a first-year student and enrich the culture of student leadership at CSUSM as co-curricular educators. Peer Mentors give back, build networks, gain new perspectives, impact the campus community, grow as individuals, create lasting relationships and learn to guide others.

How do I become a mentor?

Fill out the online application & Schedule an interview for end of April

Important Dates:

Online applications due - April 26 at 11:59pm
Interviews - April 28, 29, and 30
Peer Mentor Training - 3 dates in summer (TBD)
Peer Mentoring Retreat - July 30-July 31, 2015

Cross-Cultural Center    Phone: 760.750.4957
USU 3400    www.csusm.edu/sll/peermentoringprogram/
Mentee Acknowledgements:

“I am so thankful for having discovered this peer-mentoring program during my freshman orientation. [My mentor] has literally gotten me through several situations I struggled with throughout the semester & I consider her as practically like my big sister. We’re pretty close and I would have to say if it wasn’t for her, I would have probably been a lot more lost now than without her. She is amazing and I love her!”

“The Mentoring program was extremely helpful to me. I had a lot of questions and was worried about being at a college where I knew no one but thanks to the mentoring program, I was able to interact with others and feel comfortable with the university.”

“I had a solid foundation at the beginning of my first semester. It was very comforting to know that someone was always there for me to answer my questions or to just hang out or get lunch with during my breaks. I also had a good time just getting to know my mentor as a friend and someone I could confide in.”

Benefits of Being a Mentor

- Be the reason an incoming student’s first year is AMAZING!
- Build new friendships and connections with a group of students.
- Network with students in different academic departments.
- Gain leadership and public speaking skills.
- Find a sense of community on campus.

Requirements & Expectations

- Advise, counsel, and guide your mentee through their first year at CSUSM.
- Be available to mentees as a resource.
- Attend trainings in the Summer.
- Attend the Peer Mentoring retreat.
- Facilitate connections with peers, faculty, staff, and to campus resources.
- Attend Weeks of Welcome events.
- Stay connected with your mentees throughout the entire year.
- Work with other mentors to plan small group events.

Time Commitment

Variable depending on needs of mentee but a minimum of 10 hours/semester (not including the retreat).

What is a Peer Mentor?

A peer mentor is a current student who is doing well academically and actively involved in campus life. Mentors share their experiences with a first-year student and guide them through their first year of college. They provide information, act as a point of contact for academic and campus resources, and establish a strong, personal relationship with mentees to ensure a successful first year. Peer Mentors will help mentees get involved on campus, meet people, remind them of deadlines, get acquainted with the campus, and be a friendly face during the academic year.

Who are Mentors?

Mentors are students thriving in their academics and actively involved in campus life and organizations such as:

- University Student Union
- Orientation Team
- Associated Students, Inc.
- Residential Assistants
- Student Organizations
- Tukwut Leadership Circle
- And many others...

Who are Mentees?

Mentees are new first-year students from traditionally underserved and under-represented backgrounds who want to excel in academics and be actively involved with CSUSM campus life.