

Academic Peer Mentors

Academic Peer Mentors serve as an academic support system for students as they face new challenges and concerns during their first year of college. Peer Mentors are trained to point first year students to faculty and other academic support professionals on campus, as well as help in the development of important study skills such as time management, reading and note-taking. Become an Academic Peer Mentor and connect with the different academic opportunities UNH has to offer. It will make a huge difference to a new student's experience here at UNH.

Why Academic Peer Mentors at UNH?

The University of New Haven works hard to ensure that all of its students receive the advice and support they need to academically succeed. Students have the most critical need for support in their first year on campus, when they are navigating the often difficult transition from high school to college level work. The Academic Peer Mentor program, administered by the Office of Academic Services and the Office of Residential Life, is a program to work with first-year students in their residence halls to bolster their academic skills and to help them work with the appropriate campus resources to address their concerns. The Academic Peer Mentors work as a team with the Office of Academic Services and the Office of Residential Life to coordinate the delivery of academic advising and support programs

What are the benefits of being an UNH Academic Peer Mentor?

- Gain valuable leadership experience**
- Develop effective presentation skills**
- Make a difference in the lives of first year UNH students**
- Boost your resume**
- Make some great friends**
- Learn more about what UNH has to offer**

Prerequisites for becoming an Academic Peer Mentor

- 1. Overall academic achievement in all areas, with a minimum 3.0 GPA and in good standing with the university.**
- 2. Nominated or recommended by their department and faculty on the basis of their academic scholarship and overall leadership and character.**
- 3. Two letters of recommendation attesting to the reliability and responsibility of the applicant. At least one of the letters must be from a faculty member.**
- 4. Ability to be a positive role model.**
- 5. Positive attitude and self-motivated.**
- 6. Be familiar with and provide referrals to campus resources and support services.**
- 7. Perform duties as assigned by the Office of Academic Services and the Office of Residential Life.**
- 8. Strong communication and organizational skills.**
- 9. Peer mentors must be free of student conduct sanctions and uphold the University's Student Code of Conduct at time of application and throughout employment.**

Academic Peer Mentor Job Responsibilities

- 1. Attend all training sessions on helping students with appropriate referral making, use of campus resources, helping to organize building wide study groups and help mentor students on study skills, time management and other academic success concerns.**
- 2. Conduct weekly peer mentoring and advising meetings with students in your residence hall.**
- 3. Email weekly deadlines and appointments students have regarding their academic agenda.**
- 4. Assist the Office of Academic Services and the Office of Residential Life with academic programming in the residence halls.**
- 5. Have a clear understanding of all college policies, including the University Code of Conduct and Abide by them.**

6. Meet weekly with the Office of Academic Services/ORL staff and the residential life staff of your hall concerning issues and concerns you are addressing with your student population. Also meet biweekly with other Academic Peer Mentors to plan upcoming events, programming and discuss trends.
7. Visit all opening floor meetings to discuss the roll of the Academic Peer Mentor.
8. Compose letter to residents introducing the Academic Peer Mentor role and duties.
9. Develop a monthly Academic Success Bulletin Board for the Residence halls.
10. Submit weekly contact sheets to the Office of Academic Services.
11. Assist in reaching out to “high risk” students and encourage to contact their academic advisor.

Academic Peer Mentors are not trained in any one particular field. Rather, they are students who can listen supportively to students' issues, offer sound advice and refer students to the appropriate campus offices for further assistance. They can also plan educational programming inside the residence halls and frequently seek faculty to join them in the residence halls to present.

Academic Excellence Reception

- * Spring Reception that recognizes first year students who earned a 3.50 GPA or above for the Fall Semester.
- * Co-sponsored by the Office of Residential Life and the Office of Academic Services
- * Student Affairs and Provosts are invited to participate.
- * All honorees are given certificates.

Renumeration

1. Single room in either Bixler, Botwinik or Bethel residence hall.
2. \$1304.00/semester for 10hrs/week at \$8.15/hour.

Recommendation for Academic Peer Mentor Position

Faculty/Staff Recommendation Form

Name _____

Reference Name _____

Phone Number _____/Email: _____

The Academic Peer Mentor position is a part-time undergraduate student-staff member in a freshmen residence hall who is selected through a joint process by the Office of Residential Life and the Office of Academic Services. Peer Mentors are trained to point first year students to faculty and other academic support professionals on campus, as well as help in the development of important study skills such as time management, reading and note taking.

Your letter should address the applicant's skills around programming, community development and student leadership.

Please return your recommendation form with your letter of recommendation directly to:

All letters of recommendation are due by Friday, March 28, 2009.

By Mail: Patricia S. Christiano
Director of Residential Life
300 Boston Post Road
West Haven, CT 06516

By Fax: Patricia S. Christiano- (203) 932-7178

Confidential recommendations should be in sealed envelopes, with the evaluator's signature displayed across the sealed portion of the envelope.

Waiver of Access- Confidential

I, the applicant, waive my right to access (as afforded under state law) to the information provided in the Letter of Recommendation.

Signature (Confirms recommendation as non-confidential to applicant)

Date

Non-Confidential

I, the applicant, retain my access (as afforded under state law) to the information provided in the Letter of Recommendation.

Signature (Confirms recommendation as non-confidential to applicant)

Date

Academic Peer Mentor Application

Name _____ Residence Hall/Rm. # _____
Email _____ Cell phone _____ Room Phone # _____

Home Address _____
Home Phone Number _____

Class _____ Major _____ GPA _____

Please discuss what experiences and knowledge (academic tips) that you have gained thus far in your undergraduate career that you would like to share with the freshmen class as an Academic Peer Mentor.

What experiences will you bring that will positively impact first-year students, other Peer Mentors, faculty/staff involved at UNH and Residential Life members?

Identify the common challenges that first-year students face both academically and socially. Suggest some quality, creative programs and community building initiatives that would respond to those challenges.

Why do you consider academics to be important and how do you think you can instill a sense of importance for academics in first-year students?

What outside clubs and/or extracurricular activities do you plan to participate in during the 2009-2010 academic year? Please estimate the number of hours per week you will be involved in these activities.

All applications and letters of recommendations are due to either the Office of Residential Life in Bixler Hall or Office of Academic Services in Maxcy Hall by Friday, March 20, 2009.