Xavier Peer Mentor Program

The Peer Mentor Program was developed to help new students succeed in their first year at Xavier University. Rising Juniors and Seniors serve as Peer Mentors and assist in Goa classes which occur every week for the first six weeks of each semester. The Peer Mentors serve as a resource, advocate, and role model for new students to help in their successful transition to Xavier inside and outside the classroom.

Peer Mentors will attend Goa classes where they will meet and connect with first year students weekly. They will be available to assist Goa instructors offering their perspectives and opinions on topics covered in Goa. Additionally they will meet with the first year students from their Goa class informally (in small groups and as a larger group) outside of the classroom to ensure all students have access to the tools they need to make a smooth transition to college. Peer Mentors will help students find the answers they need to simple questions, connect them to offices on campus that can help academically, or provide them with the necessary support to get involved and become a part of the larger Xavier community.

Requirements

- Rising Junior and Senior students
- Maintain a minimum 2.5 cumulative GPA
- Good standing with the university. For the purpose of the Peer Leader program, this will include the following:
  1. Not on University probation
  2. Not on Residence Life probation
  3. Any previously assigned conduct sanctions are complete
- Attend classes as a full-time undergraduate Xavier student during fall of 2017. Students studying abroad will not be eligible.
- Complete the online application www.xavier.edu/oneapp
- Have a Xavier faculty or staff member complete a recommendation form
- Participate in Peer Mentor training in April
- Complete required summer training modules

Responsibilities of Peer Mentors

- Attend every Goa class session for the class you are assigned
- Participate in Goa classroom discussions as requested by Goa instructor
- After the first six weeks of each semester provide a time to meet with the students in your Goa class outside of the classroom twice a month
- Maintain your role as a peer mentor all year and guide your first-year students to social and academic growth
- Be willing to meet during the semester to provide updates and informal progress reports for each first-year student in the peer mentor group and/or provide regular updates via email
- Encourage your first-year students to become independent learners and take advantage of university resources
- Help first-year students identify upcoming programs to attend and in which to participate
- Be an ambassador for Xavier and present yourself as an informed, knowledgeable, and trustworthy provider of information
- Regularly read the Peer Mentor newsletters
Who is a Peer Mentor

- Someone who formally and informally gives guidance, knowledge, and support to incoming first-year Xavier students
- Someone who ‘gives a nudge’ to help a first-year student success
- Someone who keeps the Jesuit mission in mind and maintains a personal commitment to the experience
- Someone who can be responsible for helping increase students’ self-confidence and satisfaction with their experience at Xavier
- Someone who is a role model, as learning is most likely to occur when there is consistency between what the peer leader says AND his or her actual behavior

2017 Peer Mentor Training

Training will occur in April for all students selected to serve as Peer Mentors. In addition to the spring training, Peer Mentors will complete required online training modules that will provide them with the knowledge and tools they need to serve as a student resource to their first-year students. An additional August training may be required which would occur prior to the beginning of the school year.