Xavier Peer Leader Program

The Peer Leader Program was developed to help new students discover the potential within themselves to succeed in their first year at Xavier University. Rising Juniors and Seniors serve as Peer Leaders for a small group of up to four first-year students. These Peer Leaders serve as a resource, advocate, and role model for new students to help in their successful transition to Xavier.

Throughout the year, Peer Leaders will meet informally (in small groups and as a larger group) to ensure all students have access to the tools they need to make a smooth transition to college. Peer Leaders 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 2015. Students studying abroad will not be eligible.
- Complete the online application www.xavier.edu/oneapp
- Participate in Peer Leader training in April
- Complete 3 online training modules during summer

Responsibilities of Peer Leaders

- Leverage your experiences to help others succeed
- Maintain your role as a peer leader all year and guide your first-year students to social and academic growth
- 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
- Connect with your students at least twice a month during the fall semester – either one-on-one or in a small group setting
- Be willing to meet during the semester to provide updates and informal progress reports for each first-year student in the peer leader group and/or provide regular updates via email
- Regularly read the Peer Leader newsletters and participate in the discussion boards
Who is a Peer Leader

- Someone who formally or 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

2015 Peer Leader Training

A short training will occur in April for all student selected to serve as Peer Leaders. In addition to the short spring training, Peer Leaders will complete three (3) 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.