Xavier Peer Mentor Program

The Peer Mentor Program was developed to help new students succeed in their first year at Xavier University. Upperclass students 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, serving as a sort of teaching assistant for the class. Additionally, Peer Mentors should be available outside of the Goa class to meet with and serve as a resource to the students in their class, in order to help 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 sophomore, junior, or 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 2019 and spring 2020. Students studying abroad will not be eligible.
- Complete the online application found at www.xavier.edu/oneapp
- Submit the necessary recommendation(s)
  1. One recommendation is required for current sophomores and juniors
  2. TWO recommendations are required for current first year students, one of which MUST be from your fall or spring Goa instructor.
- Participate in Peer Mentor trainings in April and November
- Complete required summer training modules

Responsibilities of Peer Mentors

- Attend every Goa class session for the class you are assigned (first 6 week of each semester, once/week)
- Participate in Goa classroom discussions and activities as requested by Goa instructor, including classroom facilitation as needed/requested
- Recognize that your role as a Peer Mentor does not end with Goa but continues informally throughout the year
- Guide first year students toward appropriate resources
- Help first-year students identify upcoming programs to attend and in which to participate
- Provide updates and informal progress reports about students as requested; follow-up with students as requested by OSI, Student Success, or Goa instructors
- Encourage your first-year students to become independent learners and take advantage of university resources
- Be an ambassador for Xavier and present yourself as an informed, knowledgeable, and trustworthy provider of information
- Read weekly Peer Mentor update emails – you are responsible for the information!

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

2019 Peer Mentor Training

Training will occur in April for all students selected to serve as Peer Mentors. In addition to this in-person training session, Peer Mentors will complete required online training modules that will cover specifics of the fall course content. Training on spring semester course content will take place in November/December. Training is intended to provide Peer Mentors with the knowledge and tools they need to serve as a Peer Mentor in the best capacity possible.

2019 Peer Mentor Compensation

Peer Mentors are paid employees of the Office of Student Involvement, supervised by the Assistant Director for Orientation & Transition Programs, and the Transition Programs Student Intern, paid the hourly wage of a Student Worker I (currently $8.55/hour as of January 2019). Peer Mentors are compensated for in-person training sessions (2 hours in fall, 2 hours in spring), and each class session (1.5 hours per session in the fall and spring). Compensation is made in a lump sum at the end of each semester.