

Peer Mentor Position Description

Dean of Students Office and Liberal Arts Core Office

The Offices of the Dean of Students and the Liberal Arts Core at the University of Northern Iowa are currently accepting applications from undergraduate students interested in serving as a course embedded peer mentors for first-year only (FYO) sections of Liberal Arts Core classes offered during the 2015-2016 academic year.

Select sections of several Liberal Arts Core courses will be set aside for first-year students. FYO sections will be offered for the following courses in fall semester 2015: First-Year Cornerstone, College Writing and Research, Oral Communication, Mathematics in Decision Making, Humanities I, Theatrical Arts and Society, Soundscapes, Religions of the World, Inquiry into Life Science, Life: Continuity and Change, General Chemistry I, Human Origins, Inquiry into Physical Science, Astronomy, Molecules and Life, Human Geography, Introduction to Sociology, Human Identity and Relationships, and Culture, Nature, and Society.

Students who are selected as peer mentors will be enrolled in UNIV 3186: Studies in First-Year Peer mentoring and have the opportunity to earn three credit hours per semester. This seminar course will provide peer mentors with the training, reflective readings, and support necessary to succeed in the position. Peer mentors will be assigned to one FYO course section and work approximately 10 hours per week, not to exceed 150 hours per semester. First-Year Cornerstone peer mentors will be assigned to the same course section for the fall and spring semesters.

Peer mentor candidates will be required to:

- Enroll in UNIV 3186: First-Year Peer Mentoring, a 3 credit hour course that meets MWF 2:00 – 2:50 p.m.
- Attend their assigned first-year course each time it meets during the week
- Attend co-curricular activities with the class (i.e., lectures, performances, CAB events)
- Hold regular office hours for students to assist them in meeting class requirements
- Work closely with the faculty person teaching their designated section, providing course-related support and assistance (such as group facilitation, meetings with first-year students, taking course attendance)
- Promote the value of a liberal arts education, and the role of their assigned course within the Liberal Arts Core
- Lead brief classroom presentations on student success topics such as time management and study skills
- Attend peer mentor organizational meetings and workshops as required.
- Participate in assessing the effectiveness of their assigned course

Required Qualifications:

- Currently enrolled undergraduate student for the next academic year (2015-2016), with Categories 1A and 1B of the Liberal Arts Core (or equivalent) completed or in process.
- Outstanding communication skills (oral, written, and listening).
- Interest in and commitment to first-year student success.
- Openness to learning about academic and student support services and university policies and procedures.
- Availability to attend all class sessions of her/his assigned first-year course during the fall semester (for all non-Cornerstone sections), or for both fall and spring semesters (for all First Year Cornerstone sections).
- Minimum undergraduate cumulative GPA of 2.5.

Application:

- Applications received by **February 20, 2015** will receive full consideration.
- In order to be considered for the peer mentor position, applicants must complete and submit the full online application, available at www.uni.edu/deanofstudents/peermentor

For more information contact Kristin Woods, Assistant Dean of Students/New Student Programs at kristin.woods@uni.edu.