First Generation Peer Mentor

2018-2019

Position Description

The First Generation (“First Gen”) Peer Mentoring program is a pilot program to support student success at George Mason University. First generation students are defined as students whose parent(s)/guardian(s): (1) did not receive or complete any level of postsecondary education; (2) enrolled or earned a two-year degree from a community college; and/or (3) earned any level of postsecondary education outside of the United States. These students may have older siblings who have completed a degree.

Research consistently shows that students, in particular first generation students, successfully transition to college and perform better academically when they have peers who provide support and guidance. First Gen Peer Mentors will provide this support while serving as a positive role model for these students. This position is for one (1) full academic year.

The main responsibilities of the First Gen Peer Mentors are:

- Serve as a present and supportive role model that is available to incoming first year and transfer first gen students;
- Provide guidance and support to a cohort of five to eight (5-8) student mentees;
- Maintain weekly contact with designated mentees (via email, phone, or text);
- Meet face-to-face with designated mentees twice a month;
- Submit reports after each face-to-face meeting to First Gen Peer Mentor supervisor;
- Mandatory attendance at mentor meetings (twice a semester) and student staff meetings for the department (monthly);
- Meet monthly with First Gen Peer Mentor supervisor to review mentee progress;
- Immediately contact First Gen Peer Mentor supervisor if any mentee is experiencing distress or in an emergency situation;
- Report to First Gen Peer Mentor supervisor for supervision and evaluation of performance; and
- Represent yourself, the department, and George Mason University in positive ways at all times, especially on social and other media, exhibit good judgement in the best interest of your mentees, and maintain a positive public presence.
Application Requirements:

- 2.85 cumulative GPA or higher
- Be available for Training sessions held on the following dates and times:
  
  **Spring 2018 training:** Saturday May 12th, 2018 (9 am until 6 pm)
  
  **Fall 2018 training:** Saturday August 25th, 2018 (9 am until 6 pm)
- Have knowledge about or experience working with first generation college students

Time commitment:

- Approximately 5-8 hours per week (varies)

Compensation:

- A $250 stipend per semester, for a total of $500 for the 2018-2019 academic year

Application Deadline

- 11:59 pm on Friday April 6th, 2018

  *Applicants will be notified of decision by Friday April 20th, 2018*
First Generation Peer Mentor

2018 - 2019

Application

Name: _______________________________________________________________________________

Phone: _______________________________ Email: ________________________________

What is your PREFERRED method of contact?
   Email (GMU)
   Phone
      Call
      Text

G#: _______________________________ Date of Birth: _______________________________

Major: _____________________________ Cumulative GPA: ___________________________

Classification/Year (as of Summer 2018): ________________________________

Gender:
   Male
   Female
   Trans
   Gender non-conforming
   Other

Ethnic Background (click all that apply):
   American Indian/Alaskan Native/Indigenous
   Asian/Pacific Islander
   Black/Caribbean/African
   Hispanic/Latinx
   Middle Eastern/North African
   South Asian
   White/European
   Multiracial
   Other
In a separate Word or PDF document, please answer the following questions:

1. Please provide the following for each current or previous leadership position you've held during your time at Mason:
   a. Length of service
   b. Brief description of the position

2. Do you speak any languages besides English? If so, please list them and your level of verbal fluency.

3. How do you cope with stress and promote your own well-being? Please list your extra-curricular activities, passions, hobbies and other ways you cope.

4. What does cultural competency mean to you?

5. What do you believe are the specific needs of first year/transfer first generation college students?

6. Why should we hire you as a First Gen Peer Mentor?

7. Please list three PROFESSIONAL references and let them know they will be contacted. At least one reference must be from George Mason University. References must be a full time professional staff member, advisor, or faculty member (Please note that Mason students, including your RA or Patriot Leader, are not considered professional references.).

Please submit application and supplemental materials to vcorrea4@gmu.edu no later than 11:59 pm on Friday April 6th, 2018.