



Mentoring, Educating and Training for Academic Success

Peer Mentoring Program

Returning Mentor Application

Puerto Rican/Latin American Cultural Center

University of Connecticut

PROGRAM INFORMATION

What is METAS?

The METAS (Mentoring, Educating and Training for Academic Success) Program is designed to assist first-year and transfer students with their college transition by pairing them with a peer mentor who provides guidance and support throughout the mentee's first year at UConn. Benefits to participation include learning about resources and opportunities at UConn, attending educational, cultural and social events sponsored by the Puerto Rican/Latin American Cultural Center (PRLACC) as well as other departments throughout campus and meeting other students who are going through the same experience. The program's goals are: to enhance Latino student retention; to create a strong sense of community; to provide leadership opportunities; and to provide a support system for Latino freshmen and transfer students as they transition into college life.

How does the program work?

Mentors are recruited, interviewed and selected in the spring. During the summer, mentees are recruited into the program and are matched with mentors according to common interests and characteristics such as major, extracurricular activities, hometown, hobbies and other mentor/mentee preferences. Mentors will attend training the week before the beginning of the academic year and will be required to enroll in PRLS 3295 where he/she will develop valuable leadership skills as well as an understanding of the issues affecting Latinos in our society. Mentors and mentees will be able to participate in a number of activities during the Fall semester, which include the METAS Orientation, educational workshops, METAS meetings and other social and cultural events. Participants can work together to determine their expectations and how to best structure their relationship.

What is a Peer Mentor?

Peer mentors are undergraduate students that provide guidance to first-year and transfer students. A peer mentor is a role model in the areas of academic achievement and co-curricular involvement at UConn and is instrumental in assisting new students become successful and integrated in all aspects of campus life. Peer mentors are responsible for the following:

- Providing mentees assistance with campus resources and suggesting appropriate workshops, events and activities that will help mentees get connected to life at UConn.
- Assisting mentees with personal concerns such as adjustment issues, housing/roommate issues, making friends, peer pressure, parking, etc.
- Introducing mentees to other UConn students, faculty and staff.
- Enrolling in a 3-credit course on Latinos and Leadership in the Fall semester (PRLS 3295) – New mentors only!
- Attending PRLACC and other University events with mentees.

What are the minimum mentor qualifications?

- Be enrolled as a full-time student for at least one year at the Storrs campus prior to the beginning of the academic year.
- Have a sincere desire to help first-year and transfer students.
- Demonstrate strong leadership, communication and social skills.

- Be involved in PRLACC and its programs/events during the course of the mentoring period.
- Have a cumulative G.P.A. of 2.5 or higher.

What are the benefits to being a Peer Mentor?

- Opportunity to interact and work closely with UConn students, faculty and staff.
- Valuable experience in leadership, which can be used for future professional employment and resume purposes (e.g., job references, resume leadership experience, etc.).
- 3-credit course, which can be used toward degree requirements.
- Develop skills in interpersonal communication, mentoring and conflict resolution.
- Build friendships with other bright and supportive students who are committed to the same goals in helping students succeed.

Are there training requirements?

Yes. Upon acceptance into the program, all mentors must complete a 2 day training the week before school starts. Furthermore, new mentors must sign up for PRLS 3295, a 3-credit course offered in the Fall semester.

What is Latinos, Leadership and Mentoring (PRLS 3295)?

The overall purpose of this course is to expose students to issues faced by Latinos and to think critically about issues facing our communities and society. This course will encourage a high level of class discussion and active participation. Students will have a chance to work through case studies, participate in simulations, interact with experienced leaders, analyze popular films using Latino and leadership themes, and discuss the impact of current events and the realities of leadership. From this course, students will realize that leadership issues permeate every aspect of daily living, from events that make the local news to world crises. The class is offered Fall 2009 on Tuesdays from 4:00 to 6:30 pm.

How do I apply to be a Peer Mentor?

Pick up the mentor application at the Puerto Rican/Latin American Cultural Center. Submit all application materials to PRLACC by the deadline (March 2nd). After applications have been reviewed, the program coordinators will contact applicants and schedule interviews.

Questions?

All questions regarding the program should be directed to the program coordinators, Vanessa Mendoza, Gloria Paez or Pablo Sánchez Jr. at m.e.t.a.s.program@gmail.com or by phone at (860) 486 -1135. For further help or questions, you may also contact the director of the Puerto Rican/Latin American Cultural Center, Dr. Mayté Pérez-Franco, at mayte.perez-franco@uconn.edu.



Returning Mentor Application

(Due March 2, 2009)

Part I: Background Information (please print legibly)

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Middle Initial: _____ Nickname: _____ DOB (mm/dd/yyyy): _____

Gender: Female Male Languages spoken/written: _____

Race/Ethnicity: White, non-Hispanic/Latino African American Asian/Pacific Islander

Latino/Hispanic (country of origin): _____ Other: _____

PeopleSoft Number: _____ Email: _____@uconn.edu

College/School (e.g., College of Liberal Arts and Sciences): _____

Major: _____ Minor: _____

Class Standing: Freshmen Sophomore Cumulative GPA (required): _____

Junior Senior Other: _____ Expected Graduation Date (mm/yy): _____

Transfer student: Yes No If yes, how many completed semesters at Storrs campus? _____

Travel Abroad: Yes No If yes, where did you go? Or when and where do you plan to go?

Campus/Local Address: _____

Summer/Home Address: _____

City: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Summer/Home Phone: _____

Part II: Short Answer

Please type and attach the answers to the following questions in a separate sheet of paper. Limit your response to no more than 4-5 lines each.

1. List your campus and community involvement and interests.
2. List any awards or honors that you have received.
3. Will you work during the Fall 2009 semester? If so, where and how many weekly hours?
4. What is your favorite subject of study?

Please write at least one paragraph for each of the following questions.

5. Do you have a mentee preference (male, female, no preference)? Why?
6. What best describes your personality?

Part III: Short Essay

Please type and attach your response in a separate sheet of paper. Limit your response to 1 full page, single spaced, 12 font.

How/what do you feel you have contributed to METAS? What have you learned from METAS and why do you want to return?

Part IV: Acknowledgement

I understand that all application materials are due by the deadline, March 2nd, 2009, to the Puerto Rican/Latin American Cultural Center, 2110 Hillside Rd., Unit 3188, Storrs, CT 06269. I acknowledge that the information on this application is true and accurate and is a reflection of my own work.

Signature of Applicant

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

For office use only:

Date received: _____

Picture taken: _____

Date interviewed: _____

Reference check: _____

Accept/Decline sent: _____

GPA check: _____