Peer Mentoring Program

New 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 Latin@s, Leadership and Mentoring (PRLS 3295)?

This course examines Latin@ perspectives on educational attainment and success in the United States. Mentoring relationships and strategies for academic success and leadership development among Latin@s will be critically analyzed. In addition, this course will address the theories and applications of community-based learning in adjacent communities with growing Latino populations.

Statement of major focus and objectives of the course

Through course readings of research studies, guest speakers, class discussions, and mentors’ reflections; students will develop competency to assist and motivate entering Latino freshmen to navigate the college environment successfully and to consider leadership roles in and outside of the campus.

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 (30 March 2012). 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, via email at metas@uconn.edu 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, at prlacc@uconn.edu.
Mentoring

Educating & Training for Academic Success

Cultivating Refining Preparing

Enlightening

Teaching Guiding

Intellectuals Scholarly Achievements

Accomplishments Triumphs
### Part I: Background Information (please print legibly)

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<td>College/School (e.g., College of Liberal Arts and Sciences): __________________________</td>
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<td>Transfer student: □ Yes □ No</td>
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<td>Travel Abroad: □ Yes □ No</td>
<td>If yes, where and when did you go or plan to do so? ____________________</td>
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<td>In the past, have you participated in the METAS Program as a mentee? If yes, when? ____________________</td>
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New Mentor Application  
(Due 30 March 2012)
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. Will you work during the Fall 2012 semester? If so, where and how many weekly hours?
3. What is your favorite subject of study and why?

Please write at least 1 full page(double spaced, 12 font) for each of the following questions.

4. What makes you a good leader or mentor?
5. In what ways do you feel connected to Latino or Latin American culture (e.g., birth, family background, travel, friendships, etc.)?
6. What best describes your personality (please be thorough in your response as this information is crucial for matching purposes)?

Part III: Short Essay

Please type and attach your response in a separate sheet of paper. Limit your response to 2 full pages, double spaced, 12 font. Make sure to comment on the following...

• In your opinion what does METAS mean?
• Why do you think that a peer-mentoring program like METAS is important?
• Why do you want to be a part of METAS?

Part IV: References

Please list the names and contact information of two UCONN faculty and/or professional staff who can serve as a reference for you. (Please inform your references that they may be contacted)

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Part V: Résumé

Please attach an updated version of your résumé. We strongly encourage that you have your résumé critiqued by Career Services located in the Center for Undergraduate Education, on the 2nd floor, or by the Career Resource Assistant at PRLACC.

Part VI: Acknowledgement

I understand that all application materials are due by the deadline, 30 March 2012, to the Puerto Rican/Latin American Cultural Center
2110 Hillside Road, Unit 3188
Storrs, CT 06269-3188
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: _______________