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 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.
**Part I: Background Information** (please print legibly)

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<tr>
<th>Last Name: ______________________________</th>
<th>First Name: ______________________________</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Middle Initial: _____ Nickname: __________</td>
<td>DOB (mm/dd/yyyy): ________________________</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gender: ______________</td>
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<tr>
<td>Race/Ethnicity: □ White, non-Hispanic/Latino □ African American □ Asian/Pacific Islander</td>
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<td>□ Latino/Hispanic (country of origin): ______________</td>
<td>□ Other: ______________</td>
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<td>PeopleSoft Number: ________________________</td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:________________________@uconn.edu">________________________@uconn.edu</a></td>
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<td>College/School (e.g., College of Liberal Arts and Sciences): ________________________</td>
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<td>Class Standing: □ Freshmen □ Sophomore □ Junior □ Senior □ Other: ______________</td>
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<td>Cumulative GPA (required): ________________________</td>
<td>Expected Graduation Date (mm/yy): ______________</td>
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<td>Transfer student: □ Yes □ No If yes, how many completed semesters at Storrs campus? ______________</td>
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<td>Travel Abroad: □ Yes □ No If yes, where and when did you go, or plan on doing 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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<td>Are you an SSS student? ____________________________________________________________________</td>
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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 current mentee(s) and give a statement regarding their academic goals/plan.

2. List your campus and community involvement and interests.

3. What is your favorite subject of study and why?

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

4. What best describes your personality? (Please be thorough in your response as this information is crucial for matching purposes)

5. What qualities or skills do you have that you believe make you a good leader?

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...

- What does METAS mean to you?
- What does the group do?
- What have you learned from METAS?
- How/what do you feel you have contributed to METAS?
- Why do you want to return?

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. (Remind your references that they may be contacted)

Name: _______________________________  Name: _______________________________
Title: ________________________________  Title: ________________________________
Department: __________________________  Department: __________________________
Relationship: _________________________  Relationship: _________________________
Telephone: ___________________________  Telephone: __________________________
Email: _______________________________  Email: _______________________________
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: ________________