

Peer Mentor Program - Nassau Community College

(revised: 4/8/2015)

Peer Mentors will serve as guides and provide support to first-year NCC students to help them in their transition to NCC and their college experience.

The goals of the Peer Mentor Program are to:

- Assist first-year students in learning about the academic and social aspects of life at Nassau Community College
- Familiarize new students with the College resources and services that are available to them
- Serve as role models for first-year students and make them feel more comfortable at NCC and as college students

The roles and responsibilities of Peer Mentors are to:

- Serve as a resource in an NCC 101 class, potentially by contributing to class discussions, presenting topics relevant to first-year students and following up as a peer mentor with students who may need extra attention
- Utilize their speaking and interpersonal skills to engage students as a group and individually to encourage participation in student activities at NCC
- Contribute to class discussions by sharing relevant personal experiences and successful learning strategies
- Promote all student activities and events and display positive school spirit to inspire first-year students to get involved
- Communicate, educate and role model to students adherence to all College policies as articulated in the NCC Catalog, particularly the Student Code of Conduct and Student Rights and Responsibilities
- Meet weekly with the assigned instructor to discuss upcoming classes and/or student concerns
- Meet monthly with the Peer Mentoring Program Coordinator and other peer mentors
- Meet with each student individually as needed during the semester to foster peer support
- Assist students in creating positive relationships within the NCC 101 class
- Refer students to appropriate campus resources that will guide and educate students in any particular areas of interest or concern
- Encourage students' positive behaviors and communicate any concerns to the NCC 101 professor and/or the Peer Mentoring Program Coordinator for any necessary intervention
- Participate in the assessment and evaluation of the peer mentoring experience
- Commit to approximately 3-5 hours per week (including weekly class time and meetings with professor) for the duration of the semester

The benefits of becoming a Peer Mentor include:

- Priority Registration for course enrollment for the semester(s) the student serves as a Peer Mentor
- Free student parking permit for the semester(s) the student serves as a Peer Mentor
- Letter of acknowledgment, participation and achievement from the Peer Mentoring Program Coordinator
- Opportunity to work closely with NCC faculty, staff, and students
- Gain leadership, communication, planning, and presentation skills
- Build and enhance your resume
- Contribute to the success of other students

The qualifications to become a Peer Mentor are to:

Preference will be given to those applicants who meet the following criteria:

- Be a currently enrolled NCC student (with at least two semesters completed) and have a minimum 3.0 overall GPA
- Have no judicial record at NCC
- Demonstrate co-curricular involvement by participating in at least one student activity or club (sponsored by the Student Activities office)
- Demonstrate the ability to access and explain NCC resources, services and policies(see list of training topics)
- Be able to communicate effectively with first-year students and faculty
- Demonstrate an open and positive attitude about NCC and the ability to share their experiences with others
- Conduct themselves in a professional manner when representing the College
- Be available for an interview with the Peer Mentoring Selection Committee if selected as a finalist
- Submit one letter of recommendation from a NCC faculty member attesting to your potential in serving as a Peer Mentor
- Attend a training session before the semester begins.

The list of training topics for Peer Mentors may include:

- Effective communication skills (speaking, listening, writing (including email etiquette)
- Public speaking skills
- Time management and organizational skills
- Active listening and support skills
- Issues facing first-year students
- Campus resources and services and their locations

- College policies including the Student Code of Conduct and Student Roles and Responsibilities
- Navigating the NCC website, the MyNCC Portal, NCC Student Email, Course Registration System, and NCC Online/Blackboard.
- Student activities and events, including Student Government Association, Programming Board and The Vignette

The training schedule for Peer Mentors could be:

- Two full days (with morning and afternoon sessions, each 3 hours)
or four half days (with either morning or afternoon sessions, each 3 hours)
- Periodic training sessions/meetings with other Peer Mentors
- Regular meetings with NCC 101 instructor