

UA Transfer Connections

Mentoring Program for Transfer Students

What is a UA Transfer Connections mentor?

UATC mentors are students who have transferred to the University at Albany, and want to assist other transfer students with their transitions. They act as an important resource for other transfer students on academic, extracurricular, and other university issues. They are paired with other transfer students that feel they need assistance on campus, and UATC mentors assist them through regular meetings throughout the semester. Mentors build a relationship with their mentees that is conducive to this exchange of information. In the end, the hope is that UATC mentors will have a positive impact on their mentees, by making them feel more comfortable on campus, and more confident in their ability to succeed at UAlbany.

Who are UATC mentors paired with?

Each UATC mentor has the option of working with 1 or 2 mentees throughout the semester. These mentees will opt to be paired with a mentor, through one of two routes:

1. Transfer students in their first UAlbany semester, who want to be paired with a past transfer student for additional assistance throughout their transition.
2. Transfer students who have been at UAlbany for one or more semesters, and have been placed on academic probation. These students will be given the opportunity to work with a mentor as an additional resource towards academic success.

Mentor/mentee pairings are not done randomly—attempts are made to appropriately pair based on major, transfer institution, age, gender, extracurricular interests, etc. in order to make the relationship-building process easier.

What is required to be a UATC mentor?

All UA Transfer Connections mentors must:

1. Have transferred to UAlbany in a previous semester
2. Have been a UAlbany student for at least one full semester (by Fall 2009)
3. Have at least a 3.0 GPA in UAlbany coursework after the Spring 2009 semester
4. Be in good judicial standing at UAlbany

Mentors can be full- or part-time students.

All students who meet these criteria can be mentors, as long as they hand in a completed application form and attend one of the two-hour training sessions. Depending on the demand for mentors, we may not be able to pair each mentor with a mentee every semester, but as the program builds it is anticipated that all mentors will be needed every semester.

What are the responsibilities of a UATC mentor?

Mentor responsibilities begin with a mandatory 2-hour training at the end of the semester. All potential mentors **MUST** attend one of the training dates in order to be paired with mentees.

The dates are:

Tuesday, April 21 from 2-4 pm

OR

Wednesday, April 22 from 5-7 pm

This training will cover the specifics of the mentoring process, including:

- Role expectations (and roles that you should NOT take on)
- How to build a good working relationship with your mentees
- Common issues that could be encountered with mentees
- Resources on campus, and how to make proper referrals
- How to keep good notes of your meetings

There will also be brown-bag lunch meetings (one per month) throughout the semester that all mentors are encouraged to attend. These meetings will be a chance to discuss any major issues you have encountered, share ideas with other mentors, and find out about new resources to pass on to your mentees.

Once you have been paired with your mentee(s) (before the start of the semester), you will be responsible for setting up a time for your initial meeting, preferably within the first two weeks of classes. After that, you should have a set time to meet with your mentee—every two weeks, or more often if you and your mentee feel it is necessary. Meetings can take place on or off campus, depending on what works best for you and your mentee.

You will need to keep notes of each meeting you have with your mentee. These don't need to be extensive—just an overview of what was discussed, any major issues that you worked on, things you want to bring up again in future meetings, etc. This is also to make sure that mentees are attending meetings regularly.

Are UA Transfer Connections mentors paid?

This is a volunteer position, so mentors are not paid. However, as past transfer students, it is hoped that you understand the needs of other transfer students, and your ability to pass on your experiences to them is priceless! In addition, this is an excellent way to get involved, build your resume, and hone leadership skills.

Interested?

Please bring a completed application to the Office of Undergraduate Education in LC-30 by Friday, April 17, 2009, to be considered for Fall 2009 mentor positions. You will receive an email after handing in the application, confirming the date of your training session. Please forward all questions to Kelly Lamb: 518-442-3548, or kburke@uamail.albany.edu.