In addition to one-on-one and small group tutoring, your peer mentor will serve as a knowledgeable and experienced guide and resource, a trusted ally and advocate, and a caring role model to you. Your peer mentor is someone whose advice and encouragement you will seek regarding decisions about classes, majors, academic difficulties, and personal problems (by recommending you to meet with the appropriate outside sources). To maximize the benefits and effectiveness of this mentoring relationship, we ask that you commit to this relationship for at least one full semester and meet regularly with your assigned peer mentor throughout the semester.

**What your peer mentor does:**

- Your peer mentor can help with difficult material by putting it in a new context and helping you create connections between topics. Your peer mentor is here to assist and motivate you.
- Your peer mentor will make every effort to keep a flexible and open schedule for you within reason.
- Your peer mentor can give a few basic suggestions to help you improve your own writing and research process, but he or she is not a trained writing consultant.
- Your peer mentor is available for mentoring and advice on your college career as well.
- Your peer mentor will help you work through personal problems by recommending that you meet with the appropriate outside sources.
- Your peer mentor can help you learn how to study, take notes, and prepare for an exam or quiz. Ask your peer mentor about study methods and additional resources.
- Your peer mentor will ask you follow-up questions to ensure that you understand the material and are not merely listening passively. Be prepared to speak up during meetings.
- Your peer mentor and you must be punctual for appointments and respect each other’s time.

**What your peer mentor does not do:**

- Your peer mentor will not meet with you at the last minute and the program does not offer drop-in tutoring. Your peer mentor is a full-time student as well and cannot always reschedule at a specific time. (48 hours of prior notice is needed.)
- Your peer mentor will not meet with you only before an exam.
- Your peer mentor will not complete assignments for you or tell you what to write for papers.
- Your peer mentor will help you, but your meetings are not a substitute for your regular homework and study time.
- Your peer mentor will not ignore you when you are confused or push on with a session if you feel unwell or are finding it hard to focus, but you are responsible for letting your peer mentor know that.
- Your peer mentor cannot meet with students who are not signed up with Mentoring for Success Program and who assigned to him or her through the program.
- Your peer mentor is not a teacher and does not know what your instructor has said in lectures.
- Your peer mentor does not necessarily know every detail of the material and each chapter of the text. Your peer mentor will not know what your professor will put on quizzes and exams.
- Your peer mentor will not remind you about reward points, nor will your peer mentor keep your reward card for you.
How is a peer mentor different from a tutor?

- Your relationship with your peer mentor is a long-term relationship and commitment.
- Your peer mentor’s goals are focused on your overall development and college success; tutoring may or may not happen during your meetings.
- The intervention provided by your peer mentor may not always be reparative, remedial, or problem-focused; rather, it focuses on supporting and guiding you as you transition to or through college life.
- Instead of focusing solely on course content, your peer mentor will:
  - help you develop and enhance good study habits and learning techniques that will be useful throughout your college career, and
  - take into account each mentee’s unique needs and diverse learning styles and adapt instructional approaches accordingly.

Tips for making the most of peer mentoring:

1. Call your peer mentor (rather than email) at least one hour in advance if a meeting needs to be cancelled. Your peer mentor plans around meetings and often makes special trips to accommodate you.
2. Let your peer mentor know in advance if you would like to add an extra tutoring session that week so your peer mentor can set aside some additional times.
3. Make an effort to complete your homework before tutoring sessions so you have questions to ask your peer mentor.
4. Peer mentors have usually taken the course themselves and will be helpful guides during the semester, but they may not know all of the materials all of the time.
5. **Remember:** Your peer mentor can help you with difficult concepts to make the path to a good grade smoother, but ultimately it is your job to participate and work hard for your grade.
6. Understand that peer mentors are assigned to you on a per course basis. If you want help with a course for which no mentor is assigned, request that a mentor be assigned for that course.