



THINGS YOU CAN DO AS A PEER MENTOR TO HELP NEW STUDENTS

1. **Encourage social integration:** *Peers are the **single most significant influence** on how students perceive their college experience! If you are friendly, open and helpful, you will help build the confidence of your Mentees. Maintain ongoing contact, especially in the first quarter.*

Specific actions:

- Invite mentees to any activities you are involved in
- Lunch (weekly); go out to eat at local restaurants
- Visit dorm room
- Provide your contact information ahead of time - reminders to mentees

2. **Encourage academic integration:** *Suggest that Mentees take advantage of such resources as the Learning Resource Center, Counseling Services and its "Health, Development & Wellness" programs; Student Support Services if eligible, and personal assistance available from instructors during office hours. Mentees who mention money or financial aid problems should be encouraged to address them immediately; waiting can make things much harder to resolve.*

Specific actions:

- Remind students periodically about help
- Go with them to the places they need/request
- Suggest resources
- Listen to students' specific trouble areas
- Find Tutors/get them help/take them
- Find out their interests and provide them with as much information as you can

3. **Support a diverse campus environment:** *Help all of our students to feel comfortable – both genders, all races, international students, and students of non-traditional college age. The climate at MSOE should be welcoming to all students. "A multicultural awareness is paramount." (From the MSOE Mission Statement.)*

Specific actions:

- Meet with other mentor groups; meet with other people
- Expose students to environments and experiences that they may have never had
- Leave Milwaukee
- Volunteer work, Service Projects
- Integrate majors



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4. **Treat Mentees as individuals.** *Not everyone in your group needs or enjoys the same things. Try to get a read on what each person wants from the Mentor Program. Be resourceful.*

Specific actions:

- Respect ideas; stay positive
- Learn names
- Try to get an understanding for their likes and dislikes
- Give individual attention
- Have a variety of activities

5. **Reach out:** *Many MSOE students are internally focused or introverted, while many of our Peer Mentors are extraverted. Make an ongoing effort to connect with quieter, more introverted Mentees, who might have a tendency to isolate themselves if they find school becoming difficult. Students most in need of services are often least likely to seek them out.*

Specific actions:

- One-on-one relations
- Relate to them
- Suggest organizations
- Introduce mentees to others (on their floors, in organizations, etc.)
- Emails, some sort of contact
- Relate to them about other things besides MSOE
- Share experiences
- Discuss non-academic issues (family, etc.)
- Determine personalities

6. **Be a role model:** *You have been able to succeed and overcome challenges. Help students make realistic interpretations of their experiences. Use your experiences as a bridge between where Mentees are and what they can aspire to.*

Specific behaviors:

- Be yourself
- Lead by example
- Take your own advice
- Study groups
- Common Sense
- Use positive criticism (about classes, professors)
- Don't speak poorly of MSOE

7. **Congratulate Mentees on their successes:** *Share in the excitement when something goes well for a student, even if it's a small thing.*

Specific actions:

- Email



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continued

- Verbal
- Call parents to tell of successes
- Encouragement
- Candy
- Make sure they continue to progress
- Professors, RAs, friends

8. **Listen.**

- Try to continue previous conversations
- Don't dominate the conversation
- Let them do the talking
- Body language
- Let them know you're available
- Be observant
- Eye contact
- Act promptly
- Encourage them to talk

9. **Be friendly and kind to everyone.** *THIS IS SO IMPORTANT! Remember how you felt when you were new here. Even if it seems you will not become close friends with your Mentees, you can do a lot for their sense of confidence by being friendly and welcoming.*

Specific actions:

- Smile
- Acknowledgement
- Say hello
- Involve commuter students
- Find people with similar interests
- Do not discriminate
- Don't push or get on their case