

# First Year Seminar (FYS) Mentor Program Information

## What is the First-Year Seminar Mentor Program?

The First-Year Seminar (FYS) Mentor Program seeks to enhance students' first-year experience. Student mentors (you!) receive training for this program on how to be a class resource. The mentor's primary focus is on community building through one-on-one meetings, planning group activities, leading discussions and study sessions, and serving as a resource for first-year students.

## What do we hope Mentors gain from the program?

1. Work on communication skills by informing new students of on campus involvement activities.
2. Experience personal growth by sharing experiences and mentoring new students through group activities and one-on-one sessions.
3. Gain a sense of leadership when coming in contact with a variety of situations and students.
4. Learn responsibility for monetary resources, schedules and event proposal as well as event execution.

## What are the time commitments?

- Meet with the professor in the beginning of the semester
- Visit class, at least twice a month (Your FYS class should not conflict with your class schedule)
- Meetings with Student Activities Staff, once a month
- Class activity/outing, one for the semester (minimum)

## Why should I be a Mentor?

- You help new students:
  - Receive a successful transition both academically and socially from High School to the University setting.
  - Engage in meaningful relationships with the professor, fellow classmates, and upperclassman.
  - Receive firsthand knowledge and mentoring from an experienced student on "navigating" Pepperdine University.
  - Enhance self-esteem and personal development through one-on-one meetings with their mentor.
  - Gain a sense of belonging through school pride, involvement in organizations, groups and leadership roles.
- Research: National Orientation Directors Association (NODA), published the "The Journal of College Orientation and Transition" (Volume 19, number 2, Spring 2012):
  - "The presence of quality student-teacher relationships, a counselor-student relationships, and secure peer attachments can provide much needed emotional support for students experiencing homesickness."
  - "Involvement with faculty and student peer groups encourages participation in social and intellectual life of a college, and therefore, helps learning and persistence in college."

## How are Mentors selected and paired with professors?

Mentors are selected by quality of application response and past experience. We match students and professors by a mutual selection process. We allow both the Student Leaders and the Professors to request preferences. We give preference to students who have had the professor or the FYS class in the past.