

Academic Mentor Programme (5%) Fall 2011

Brief description of program / project:

The objective of the Academic Mentor Program is to support University of Utah students academically especially those who do not meet university entrance requirements and members of the LGBT community who would like academic assistance. The program is intended to monitor student progress and ensure that students are accessing resources needed to succeed. Core components include institutional resource navigation, academic decision-making, monitoring academic progress and institutional problems solving. Unlike LGBT mentors who are peer mentors, Academic Mentors are LGBT Resource Center staff members.

Desired Outcomes

- mentees and mentors meet at least once or meet twice a month
- mentees feel comfortable in the university environment
- students feel comfortable talking to their mentors
- students feel having a mentor is helpful in navigating the university environment
- students feel they have enough support to be successful at school
- students are passing their classes

Who was asked to complete survey: Any students currently participating in the program

Respondents: We only had one respondent from four participants. Some students have been in the program multiple semesters and so have completed this survey in the past.

Administration Type: StudentVoice e-mail

Summary of Key Findings: This student strongly agreed that they were comfortable talking to their mentor, agreed that their mentor provided helpful university resources, were neutral with regard to the experience helping them start planning and scheduling degree requirements and disagreed that the program helped them solve problems. They agreed, however, that the program was helpful in aiding their academic success. They offered no useful feedback.

Actions Taken:

We have made modifications to the training process for mentors and asked them to discuss degree requirements and participants them periodically if they can help them with anything including problem solving.

We should also make modifications to the assessment for next year. Students may be saying that they disagree that mentors are helping them with problem solving and degree planning if they did not have any problems to work through. Perhaps we should word this differently on the survey.

Which department and/or program goals does this survey align with?

- (1d) Student enrichment through volunteering
- (1c) Promote experiential learning through mentoring
- (3d) Increase resources available for underrepresented populations

Which Student Affairs goals does this program align with?

- (1c) **Develop students as a whole through the cultivation and enrichment of the body, mind and spirit.** Promote experiential learning opportunities (e.g. career development, internships, mentoring programs and part-time employment).