

MENTORING FOR NEW STUDENTS
SURVEY – OVERNIGHT AND TWO-DAY ORIENTATION – Summer 2012
N = 906

This survey was administered in two parts. Students attending the Overnight Orientations (primarily held in June 2012) were sent the survey via email and then sent a reminder two weeks later. 207 students responded. Students attending the Two-Day Orientation (July 2012) completed the survey as part of the evaluation process during check-out on the day they attended Orientation. 699 students responded.

1. In three words or less, define a “mentor”.
 - a. Leader
 - b. Friend
 - c. Guide***
 - d. Teacher
 - e. Helper
 - f. Advisor
 - g. Advocate
 - h. Role Model

2. Name three qualities you want in a mentor (of the 2,721 words gathered, these appeared most frequently)
MOST OFTEN:
 - a. Helpful/Helping
 - b. Knowledgeable/Wise/Intelligent
VERY FREQUENTLY
 - c. Friendly
 - d. Fun
 - e. Honest/Trustworthy
 - f. Informative/Informed
 - g. Kind/Nice/Compassionate/Caring
 - h. Patient
 - i. Responsible/Dependable/Reliable
FREQUENTLY
 - j. Approachable
 - k. Good Communicator

- l. Experienced**
- m. Enthusiastic**
- n. Good listener**
- o. Outgoing**
- p. Respectful**
- q. Understanding**
- r. Easy (to talk to, to be around, -going)**
- s. Understanding**
- t. Supportive**

3. If you were to have a mentor, would you like a (Check all that apply)

- a. Upper class undergraduate student: 70%**
- b. Graduate student 58%**
- c. Faculty 42%**
- d. Staff 32%**

4. If you had the opportunity to participate in a mentoring experience, would you?

- a. Yes 57%**
- b. No 7%**
- c. Maybe 35%**

If maybe, explain what would make the mentoring experience worthwhile

- a. Depends on time commitment and schedule*****
- b. If I felt they could really help**
- c. If it was a mentor I liked**
- d. If I was really struggling**
- e. If it was someone I could relate to**

“I don’t want someone bugging me all the time but someone I would feel comfortable going to with all my stupid freshman questions.”

5. Which of the following formats would you prefer for being mentored?

- a. Individual meetings with mentor 60%**
- b. Group meetings/social events shared with Mentor & a few other students 35%**
- c. Email/phone contact primarily 5%**

6. Ideally, how often would you like to be in contact with your mentor?

- a. More than weekly 6%**

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|-------------------------|-----|
| b. Weekly | 39% |
| c. Few times a month | 37% |
| d. Monthly | 10% |
| e. Few times a semester | 8% |

7. Do you have any comments on your mentoring preferences? (Selected quotes)

*****One idea that came up frequently is about mentors who are in the same field of study.**

“I am first generation and very new with the whole college idea so I would want to have a mentor help me step by step in which direction I should be heading. I would like to be guided by someone who has attended the U so I could get advice from their experiences”

“I don’t want my mentor to completely forget about me, but I want them to be involved and care about how I am doing in my classes or provide me with important information about the university, registering, etc.”

“Mentoring is a good idea. I’m just worried that it will take too much time out of my day”

“Mentors are fantastic. They’re not teachers so the formality of the classroom is removed. They can be very personal and can cater to exactly what you need.”

“I would want a mentor who I could relate to beyond my academic needs. I know that it’s a lot to ask for but it would be great to have someone to help me identify pitfalls I may encounter.

“Just a mentor who is patient and be able to come up with ways to help the person they are with.