BIOSC 1900: Biological Sciences Peer Advising

1 credit (4-5 hours/week; may not be evenly spaced in semester)

Peer advisors will meet with current and prospective biological sciences majors to share their personal college experiences and offer advice on scheduling, studying, and extracurricular activities. Students participating in the peer advising program will be required to attend biweekly group meetings throughout the semester, hold 1-2 weekly office hours, participate in and/or help organize 4-5 advising events during the semester. In addition, peer advisors will work together to maintain the department blog, host prospective students, and develop new advising videos, handouts, and community events.

Requirements:

Training session and bi-weekly group meetings (45 minute): Learn major requirements and differences between majors. Understand and explain general departmental requirements (minimum grade requirements, S/NC policy, etc.). Be able to respond effectively to questions about Rate My Prof, best classes, best profs, etc. Become familiar with major campus resources (ARC and counseling center).

Weekly office hours: Host 1-2 weekly drop-in office hours each week where students can informally ask questions about scheduling, studying, and extracurricular activities. Participate in open houses for prospective students. Hold mentoring sessions for small groups of first and second year students.

Workshops/advising events: attend and/or help organize information sessions for students in the department. Help run Group Advising Meetings and organize/develop new professional development seminars by recruiting speakers, panelists, and other individuals to present/share information about specific topics of interest to students.

- Coming back from a mistake; growth mindset; perseverance
- Study skills
- Anxiety/stress: approaches for avoiding and dealing with stress-inducing situations
- belonging

Blog post: each peer advisor will be responsible for authoring at least two entries for our Department of Biological Sciences student blog. One entry must have a biology-related topic (research project, an interesting topic from class that you research, etc.) The second blog post can be more general with topics such including life as a student, graduate/professional school applications, work-life balance, extracurricular activities, or anything that students in our department will find interesting!

Pre-requisites:

Declared major in the department of biological sciences for at least one full long semester.

3.25 overall GPA
Biological Sciences Peer Advising Application

Name __________________________  Peoplesoft #____________________________

Email __________________________  Phone # ______________________________

Class standing/year: ___________________  Expected graduation ______________

Bio Major __________________________  Overall GPA __________________

Other majors, minors, certificates
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________

Extracurricular activities:
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________

References
Please provide the names and affiliations of 2 references (make sure they know that you are listing them!)
Name __________________________  Affiliation ______________________
Name __________________________  Affiliation ______________________

Personal statement
Please attach a short (1 page max) essay that describes your motivation for applying for the Biological Sciences Peer Advising program. Suggested topics (you do not have to include all!): how you chose your major, obstacles you have overcome in your college career, the impact of extracurriculars on your college career, and/or, any ideas you have to share for helping this program succeed.
Fall 2021 Course & activity schedule

Please attach your anticipated daily schedule that includes your classes and other activities or commitments. This will be used to determine availability for bi-weekly group meetings.

_________________________________________________________________________

Applicant’s signature                                      Date

Return to Jessica when completed
Please contact Jessica Wandelt (jewandelt@pitt.edu) with any questions!