

Congrats in completing your first semester at UP! Earlier this summer, I had reached out and asked if you might be interested in “opting in” for our first generation (FGEN) peer-to-peer mentor program.

We are again seeking FGEN students new to UP – (FIRST YEAR and TRANSFER) that would be interested in joining our spring 2022 Peer-to-Peer Mentor cohort. Would you be interested in joining us, and being matched with an upper classman FGEN student?

-If interested, JUST REPLY TO firstgen@up.edu , that’s it!

We will accept interested students on a rolling basis on a first-come, first-serve basis until all slots are full to capacity.

Additional info below!

Cheers, Matt Daily



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The FGEN community at UP is launching its next cohort of its First-Generation Peer Mentor program in January for first time FGEN students. **Would you like to join us?** We are reaching out to see if you are interested in taking part in our spring cohort of students to participate in this mentor/mentee relationship.

About the program:

Each participant that decides to participate will be paired with a current FGEN upper classman at UP. Your FGEN Peer Mentor has experienced and navigated UP just like you – as a FGEN student – and while experiencing some difficult moments, has found success. As a program, we want nothing more than for you to experience this same academic, social, and emotional success here on the Bluff. **[Watch a video about the program!](#)**

Why should I join and participate?

Great question. I asked our FGEN Student Ambassadors the same thing. Here are a couple of their thoughts:

*“Being a FGEN student is more than just being the first in your family to go to college, it's setting the tone for your peers, family, and generations to come. You have already made the first jump at getting a higher education and now it's our turn to help you. Being FGEN gives you an opportunity to grow as an individual as well as help the University grow as a whole in its' diversity and inclusion. As an FGEN student myself, this program would have been great as we are not here to be your parents or professors, but we are here to help guide you through the process of becoming a better student and person. There are many aspects of being a FGEN student that we can help you with, and part of that is answering the small and tough questions you may have along your journey. Having someone, better yet, having a community behind you that is doing everything they can to better each other is something we all need and this program will help you when you need it the most as well as be there for you on an everyday basis.” - **Rique Ortega, '17 Engineering Major and former FGEN Ambassador/Peer Mentor***

*“This mentorship as a FGEN student is an opportunity to meet one on one with another student who has walked in the FGEN shoes and dealt with many of the same struggles, insecurities, and challenges, in order to give you the personal resources you can work with to further holistically develop yourself. It gives you a chance to meet with someone who cares about your story, can empathize with you, and then utilize their help to develop personal tools and strategies for you to use in confronting and overcoming the many obstacles you will face.” - **Parker Elliott, '18 Engineering Major and former FGEN Ambassador/Peer Mentor***

Expectations:

- Participation as a mentee is voluntary.
- Must be a current FGEN first-time student at UP
- Willing to meet twice monthly for one hour with matched mentor to discuss topics important to you or the FGEN experience.
- Attend FGEN social programming events sponsored and put on by FGEN Student Ambassadors

If you are interested in participating or have questions, please reply to this email to express your interest in joining for this initiative next spring. Interest is taken on a rolling basis after this time pending slot availability.

Many thanks,

Matt Daily and the current FGEN Student Ambassadors