

# WESTERN NEW ENGLAND UNIVERSITY

## Peer Advising Program

### Applicant Information

Peer Advising at Western New England University represents a cornerstone in new student adjustment and has been recognized nationally as a mentoring experience of unique proportion. Most important it has become a centerpiece in the first year program.

Recognizing that adjustment to the college experience, particularly for first year students can be full of anxiety and waiting pitfalls, Peer Advisors work closely with an assigned group of new students through the first year of matriculation at the University. The advising load will vary, averaging 18-20 advisees, depending on available resources and size of the entering class. Specific involvement includes such programs as fall and spring Transitions programs, freshman focus programs, development of personal success plans, response to early warning notices, and individual outreach initiatives. Peer Advisors often work in partnership with faculty advisors and other student affairs units.

A common thread in any of the assigned tasks is the personal interest in each advisee, being accessible at time of need and offering congratulations at times of success. Being a Peer Advisor means adapting a lifestyle of caring. It is about being a shepherd through the first year of student enrollment. It is about modeling successful strategies for intellectual and personal growth. It is about mentorship.

First time application for a position of Peer Advisor consists of the following elements:

1. Completion of formal application
2. Submission of one personal and one academic reference  
*Personal reference must be from staff, faculty, or appointed student leader at WNE; the academic reference must come from faculty with whom you have had class.*
3. Completion of an information interview with a current PA  
*Interview will be assigned at time of filing of completed application.*
4. Completion of group process interview *Scheduled at time of filing application.*
5. Completion of personal interview with Peer Advising Steering Committee.
6. Completion of personal interview with the AVP for Enrollment Management and Retention/Dean of First Year Students, Assistant Director for First Year Student Success, or Director for Student Success and Engagement.

At each stage of the application process, screening of applicants takes place as pertains to satisfactory progress toward admission to candidacy. Most specifically, screening decisions are made after the group interview to determine finalist applicants. Only finalist applicants are invited to the personal interview stages, following which candidates are chosen for admission to the training process.

Appointment as a PA and continuance in the position is contingent upon the following conditions. All appointments are for a period of one year:

1. Enrollment in a full-time undergraduate degree program.
2. Successful completion of at least 30 credit hours by May 2019.
3. Maintaining a cumulative and semester grade point average of at least 2.5  
Preference is extended to first time applicants with a cumulative GPA of 2.7 or better.
4. Successful completion of approximately 20 hours of spring pre-service training appropriate to the position, including successful completion of competency exam.
5. Attendance at and participation in a personal development retreat.
6. Attendance at and participation in required training and Transition Program preparations prior to the opening of academic year, typically 10 days prior to start of classes.
7. Upholding prescribed standards of ethical conduct including demonstrated respect for diversity.

#### **IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER**

Friday, January 25 <sup>th</sup>	Applications Due
Tuesday, January 29 <sup>th</sup>	PA Group Interview (From 6:30 -8:30 pm in Senate Chambers)
<b><u>OR</u></b>	
Wednesday, January 30 <sup>th</sup>	PA Group Interview (From 6:30 -8:30 pm in Senate Chambers)
Friday, February 1 <sup>st</sup>	Information Interview to be completed by this date
Monday, February 4 <sup>th</sup>	Applicant References Due Notification of Acceptance as Finalist for Personal Interviews
2/5 -2/15	PA Interviews with Steering Committee
2/11 – 2/28	Personal Interviews with Dean Jarzabski, Alyssa Caliguri, or Dominic Seguro
Friday, March 1 <sup>st</sup>	Final Decisions Made
Monday, March 4 <sup>th</sup>	Letters with final decisions available in OFTS beginning
Week of 3/4	Training begins