

A BEST peer mentor is a student staff member who provides leadership and direction to students in the Biology Education Success Teams (BEST) Learning Community. BEST is a Fall-semester program intended to facilitate a successful transition into the university setting by providing academic and social support to incoming first-year students in the Biology major. The BEST peer mentor will serve as a source of support and encouragement to students and will assist in the transition to college life.

Qualifications

For consideration, candidates must possess the following qualifications:

- Biology major with sophomore or junior status by Fall 2026
- Students must not be graduating in fall 2026 or spring/summer 2027
- Minimum grade point average of 2.50
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills
- Knowledge of the major, including opportunities and degree requirements
- Positive attitude
- Responsibility and self-motivation
- Successful completion of BIOL 2110 & 2110L and CHEM 1630 & 1630L or CHEM 1770 & 1770L
- Must be available to attend Peer Mentor training in August prior to the start of the Fall 2026 semester
- Must be available to attend weekly Peer Mentor meetings during the Fall 2026 semester

Responsibilities

Peer mentors for the BEST learning community will have the following responsibilities:

- Coordinate a minimum of one workshop or event for the program participants per semester
- Provide information about the learning community to members via email and class announcements
- Help students become familiar with university resources; refer students to appropriate university resources as the need arises
- Co-lead two small group BIOL 1100 orientation class recitation sections weekly for the first half of the Fall 2026 semester
- Attend a weekly meeting with learning community staff
- Meet one-on-one with each mentee (~20) during the first 8 weeks of Fall 2026
- Assist learning community coordinator in planning events, field trips, and/or site visits
- Participate in service-learning projects and social/team-building events with the learning community
- Participate in training the week prior to the start of the Fall 2026 semester and throughout the semester as required

Compensation

Peer mentors will receive compensation at a rate of \$14.00 per hour and will work approximately 4-8 hours per week during the first half of the semester. Various work hours may be available during the second half of the semester.