

Leading Students to Empower their Peers in Undergraduate Research

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Three Types of Student Leadership Programs

1. L.E.A.R.N. Program
 - a. Peer Mentors
 - b. Teaching Assistants
 - c. Student Assistants
2. Peer Advising/Mentoring
3. Student Councils

L.E.A.R.N. Peer Mentors



L.E.A.R.N. @ UCF and FAU

- Learning Community
- Introduction to Research I & II courses
- Social, Academic and Service Programming
- Academic Advisors
- Faculty/Graduate Mentors in research
- Peer Mentors



L.E.A.R.N. Peer Mentor: Training

At UCF	At FAU
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● 3 for FTIC & 3 for transfer students● Starts before fall semester starts, and continues throughout the year once a month	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● 3 for FTIC & 3 for transfer students<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Initiated prior to fall semester○ Once weekly throughout academic year○ Case by case basis
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● 1 Student Assistant● Starts 2 weeks before fall semester starts, and continues on-the-job	

L.E.A.R.N. Peer Mentor: Responsibilities



At UCF	At FAU
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Monthly meetings with students● Teaching assistant for Introduction to Research Courses	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Monthly meetings with students● Teaching assistant for Introduction to Research Courses
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Meets with LEARN students during office hours● Grading● Program implementation support● Office support	

L.E.A.R.N. Peer Mentor: Growth Opportunities

At UCF	At FAU
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Digital Storytelling Project ● Provided with one-on-one meetings with staff and Peer Mentor meetings each month 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Teaching and assessment training from program PIs ● Development of graduate school and professional skills
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● One-on-one meetings with staff ● Additional projects ● Serve on professional panels 	

L.E.A.R.N. Peer Mentor: Student Compensation

At UCF	At FAU
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● \$10/hour for variable hours, thoughts on using stipends due to leadership quality of position● Federal Work Study● Florida Work Experience Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● \$10/hour with a maximum of \$1,500 for position duration
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● \$11/hour for 10hrs/week	



Peer Advising and Mentoring



Peer Mentor Advisors: The Program

At UCF

- 3 peer mentors work between 10-30 hours
- Offer two sessions of advising a day, four days a week
 - Both drop-in and appointments
- Peer Mentors saw over **650** students last year: most talk about how to get started

At FAU

- ~10 peer mentors
- Mentor during weekly office hours and by appointment
- Host workshops
- Classroom presentations
- Summer - Summer Contract

Peer Mentor Advisors: Training

At UCF

- One full day with Student Council
 - Covers: basics about our office and how to explain their own work
- Starting early to mid-Summer, new PMs go through about 1 -2 weeks of on the job training with previous year's mentor(s)

At FAU

- “Peer Mentoring 101” Training
- “Peer Mentor Social”
- Mock Mentoring Sessions
- Monthly Meetings
- Monthly Professional Development (public speaking, time management, stress reduction etc.)

Peer Mentor Advising: Responsibilities

At UCF

- “Own” the advising experience:
 - Prep, advise, and record
 - Assist with assessment
- Given leeway to develop new materials or processes for advising
 - Examples: ‘cheat sheets’ for special populations
- Provide invaluable feedback to OUR

At FAU

- Mentor, lead, and host workshops, mentoring sessions, and classroom presentations
- Record “touch points” for assessment
- Provide OUR with student perspective

Peer Mentor Advising: Growth Opportunities

At UCF

- Provided with one-on-one meetings with staff members
- Encouraged to take on new projects to grow skillsets
 - Common: creative projects, public speaking, social media content

At FAU

- explore research outside of their own disciplines
- network with faculty and students
- create new student professional development opportunities (i.e. workshops)
- pursue opportunities to bolster their applications for future endeavors

Peer Mentor Advising: Student compensation

At UCF

- Paid \$10/hour
- Also use Federal Work Study (or Florida Work Experience Program) funding

At FAU

- \$600 stipend split between 2 semesters (Fall and Spring)
- Polos and Business cards
- Must complete prerequisites before stipend is disbursed
- Go with the flow:
 - time of disbursement is flexible
 - disbursement methods have changed each year of the program

Student Councils



Student Councils: The Details

At UCF

Student Undergraduate Research Council (SURC)

- NOT an RSO
- 10 members
- Open to all disciplines, we select for variety
- Returning members (~30%)



At FAU

Council for Scholarship and Inquiry (CSI)

- Registered Student Organization (SG funding)
- Officers each year range from 6-10 active members (President, VP, treasurer, etc.)
- Open to students from all disciplines
- 258 currently registered members



Student Councils: Training

At UCF

- Recruitment cycle allows for one-day, all-team training in early May
 - Guest speakers, interactive activities, lunch

At FAU

- Similar training to the Peer Mentor Program:
 - Peer Mentoring 101
 - What is Research?
 - How to Get Started in Research
 - How to Contact Faculty

Student Councils: What do they do?

At UCF

- Recruit and publicize for us (in-person, social media)
- Administer student and faculty recognition programs
- Advise OUR on programs, workshops, and other efforts

At FAU

- Recruit and publicize for OURI (classroom presentations, tabling, emails, social media)
- Determine “Distinguished Mentor of the Year” (a faculty mentor award)
- Host the Symposium Reception
- Edit, publish, and fund the Florida Atlantic Undergraduate Research Journal (FAURJ)

Student Councils: Event Management

At UCF

- Past years: student panels and workshops
 - Mythbusters: Undergraduate Research Edition
- New this year: Faculty panel
- They are also working together on a “Research Fair” for all the research-related RSOs on campus

At FAU

- General Body meetings 1-2 per semester
- “Meeting of the Minds” aka “MOM”
 - College Specific in the fall
 - “Super MOM” in the spring
 - Faculty Panel
 - Dinner and Networking
 - Invite other RSOs to table and recruit



Student Councils: The “Carrot” for Participation

At UCF

- Official polo shirt and name tag
- Letters of recommendation
- \$300 in research funds, if they're in good standing
- Networking and leadership opportunities

At FAU

- OURI T-Shirt
- Letters of Recommendation
- Networking with other students, faculty, and staff
- Leadership opportunities

Presenters' Contact Information

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