

The first thing I did was reach out to my advisor and consult with them about the objectives of the experience. We had a meeting with other interns where the resources at our disposal and how we are supposed to approach the students. It is our goal as peer mentors to aid the students that just embarked on their college journey. One of the greatest challenges faced by students that are just starting is resource management. This is a complex and simple problem to solve as a peer mentor. I can explain where elements are located, such as buildings, classes, websites, etc., but this does not mean that the students will retain the information. The most common resource that is not understood is registration. It is important for starting students to register for their classes on time and make sure that there is no hold being placed on their account. It is also vital for them to consult with their advisor to make sure they are on the best path to their diploma that they can take. Another challenge that peer mentors face is establishing a good relationship and rapport with their students. I made sure to be always friendly and understanding when undergoing communication with them. While being friendly is a must it is equally important to make sure they understand the boundaries you set. I made it clear that I would answer questions on anything that I had knowledge on including course work, but I would not complete anyone's assignments for them. This is an important factor throughout, but it also comes into play if a student is asking for advice on a course that I have taken. This is another difficult problem to solve because what worked for me may not work for someone else. If they take a downturn due to my advice this can also sour future discussions and the relationship that has taken time to build. So far, I would say the most valuable skills that are needed to thrive in this internship are communication and organization. I have to manage my time and course work relating to my own courses, while ensuring that the internship objectives and requirements are being fulfilled.