



**Peer Mentors  
on the Autism**

**SPECTRUM SCHOLARS**

**Supporting Students  
Spectrum**

2020-21

[Spectrum Scholars](#) is an initiative that offers supports and career development opportunities for autistic undergraduate students at the University of Delaware. The initiative is overseen by the College of Education and Human Development's Center for Disabilities Studies, and is supported by JPMorgan Chase & Co. The effort is designed to comprehensively support, include and celebrate each individual throughout their time at the University.

Social and peer-related forms of support can make a big impact on students' success in learning about and becoming part of a campus community. It is for this reason that we seek UD **sophomore, junior and first semester senior volunteers** who are interested in building a supportive, positive relationship with at least one student enrolled as a Spectrum Scholar. It is our expectation that each mentor will be paired with at least one, hopefully, two Spectrum Scholars. Mentors are expected to invest three-to-five hours weekly in direct student support and training, in addition to periodic group social events.

Spectrum Scholars aims to:

- Ease each student's transition to college life
- Assist students in becoming more independent, confident individuals
- Facilitate and develop a social support system, communication skills, and independent living skills
- Increase connectedness and inclusivity in a university environment
- Provide useful and immediate feedback leading to improvements in personal relationships

Peer Mentors will be partnered with a minimum of one Spectrum Scholar and participate in required weekly training sessions and periodic group social events.

A Peer Mentor is expected to:

- Participate as a peer mentor for a minimum of two consecutive semesters
- Meet a minimum of an hour weekly with each Spectrum Scholar partner in person (therefore if partnered with two scholars, 2 hrs. per week)
- Attend a mandatory weekly training meeting (1 hour 30 minutes per week) to learn about autism and appropriate support strategies
- Use effective listening and feedback skills
- Model socially and academically appropriate behavior
- Be patient and consistent
- Use a positive, person-centered, respectful approach
- Set and adhere to appropriate mentor-mentee(s) boundaries with assistance from Spectrum Scholars staff
- Learn from Spectrum Scholars
- Assist with academic development (when appropriate)
- Share critical knowledge/personal experiences (when appropriate)
- Assist with contacting and attending campus clubs/programs, facilities, services (when appropriate)
- Maintain weekly logs recording all Spectrum Scholars activities & trainings
- Maintain regular contact with Spectrum Scholars staff
- Help plan, attend and host social events
- *(Optional)* Assist with marketing and outreach opportunities for Spectrum Scholars initiatives



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**Thank you for your interest. To apply to become a Spectrum Scholars Peer Mentor, please complete and return the form on the back of this sheet.**

## Peer Mentor Application

**Choose one of the options below to submit your application:**

- **Email a copy to Doretha (Dot) Freeman, [spectrum-scholars-info@udel.edu](mailto:spectrum-scholars-info@udel.edu)**
- **Bring a hard copy to our office: Spectrum Scholars, 125 Academy St., Pearson Hall, room 105.**

**Call 302-831-4640 with questions.**

**Thank you!**

Yes! I am interested in being a Peer Mentor for **academic year 2020-21...starting fall 2020.**

I will be a: \_\_Sophomore \_\_Junior \_\_Senior      *Anticipated Mo./Year of Graduation:* \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_      DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_      UD ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone#: \_\_\_\_\_

Major(s): \_\_\_\_\_      Minor(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Campus Residents: Where on campus do you live? Please include your hall & street.

Commuters: Please include your address:

Why would you like to be a Peer Mentor?

Please list your interests and campus and community involvement:

Do you have experience with Autism (not a requirement to be a mentor)? Please explain.



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How did you hear about Spectrum Scholars and peer mentoring?

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