



# Tips from Student Advising on how to be an effective Peer Mentor!

## Please **DO**

- ✓ DO share your experiences with your mentees about your classes, professors and course load.
- ✓ DO refer your mentees to the Student Advising office to answer their questions about specific course requirements, prerequisites, program planning and progression.
- ✓ DO show your mentees the OCAD University website ([www.ocadu.ca](http://www.ocadu.ca)) and where they can find official and accurate information about Dates and Deadlines, program information and registration.
- ✓ DO encourage your mentees to talk to their professors when they have questions about assignments, coursework or feedback they have received.
- ✓ DO encourage your mentees to attend all of their classes and do their homework!
- ✓ Do remind your mentees to check their OCAD U student email so they don't miss valuable information.
- ✓ DO say "I don't know the answer to your question" when you aren't sure of an answer, then bring your mentee to Student Advising. We are happy to help answer questions or to refer students to the right place for those answers. You are not expected to know everything about OCAD U; we are!
- ✓ DO be mindful that every student's situation can be different. It's important not to give your mentees advice you think might be helpful but may be incorrect or inappropriate for their situation.
- ✓ DO remember that academic and administrative information changes every year and what applied to you might not apply to your mentee. Again, direct your mentee to the website or the Student Advising Office.
- ✓ DO remember that there are many policies and procedures here at OCAD, and many which can accommodate extenuating circumstances which may be impacting your mentee. Encourage them to seek help or advice from Student Advising...we're happy to help.
- ✓ **DO email us:** [advising@ocadu.ca](mailto:advising@ocadu.ca)

## Please **DON'T**

- ✗ DON'T advise your mentee about what specific courses are required for their Major, especially under the new Flow requirements for many programs.
- ✗ DON'T tell your mentees about what you think their Liberal Studies requirements might be.
- ✗ DON'T give guidance about specific prerequisites for courses, or tell them what courses "they can take later."
- ✗ DON'T tell your mentees which specific courses are required for a Minor, or how Majors and Minors work together.
- ✗ DON'T tell your mentees wrong information about minimum grades; except for some specific courses in Design, ALL other courses have a minimum passing grade of 50%.
- ✗ DON'T access the registration system for your mentee to help them add or drop courses.
- ✗ DON'T tell your mentees that we mark on a bell curve; this is not true.