

What is your least favorite part of being a New Student Mentor?

Limited hours of work

Sometimes it feels like the mentees don't want to be there

It can be somewhat energetically draining for me

That it feels like my schedule is kind of all over the place with different times!

There's not a part I don't like, but one of my biggest struggles is probably feeling productive during my Biddulph shift. That's when I plan my gatherings, but I feel like I plan them a lot better when I'm alone and it's quiet

It can be a bit much at times, like I can feel a bit overwhelmed especially when students aren't responding

Sometimes the unclarity of everything that we are supposed to be doing. But it's pretty good despite that and I've noticed the effort they are putting in to help us and answer our questions.

Working with "problem students" who actively try to find flaws with solutions I give them

I currently do not have a least favorite part

I feel like I was just thrown in and expected to know everything and the first couple weeks because of that was hard. I felt inadequate for the job.

Probably having so many students (37), but I can manage well. Also, students not responding to me and feeling like it's a failure on my part.

tedious logging

not a lot of hours

When I can't get some students to respond to me.

The gatherings - some of them are great but some of them I dread having to lead

Logging and when students have bad attitudes.

I feel that there are so many different meetings and gatherings that make my schedule so spaced out which causes a lot of time to be wasted.

Getting up early for a morning gathering

Having to deal with unresponsive or uncooperative students.

Biddulph shift, but it's okay

I am unable to answer some of my mentee's more detailed questions. I want to be able to help them right away. I do send them to the resources that I know will help them, so that makes me feel better.

Communication isn't always great. There were a lot of meetings that we as Mentors were not made aware of until Mentor Orientation and that was not great, especially since those meetings seemed to be revealed one at a time, instead of all at once. I have a full load of credits this semester, and so the lack of transparency on all of our responsibilities earlier on was stressful, especially since I had to accommodate my study time to attend meetings. They fit in my schedule just fine, but it was a huge let down to find out about more and more meetings throughout orientation. In addition, our gathering rooms have been taken over by other classes and groups this semester, and although my room was changed to accommodate this, I was not made aware of the change. This position really does treat us well, but the communication and transparency about our time commitments could have been better from the get go.

Some things aren't clarified well enough and it can get really confusing with what is expected of you.

Every part of being a mentor is my favorite!

Not going to lie, logging can be tedious sometimes

Trying to get out to every single student individually is really difficult and stresses me out quite a bit. I am often unable to complete that every week

Not being able to control certain things that are happening in our students lives. Life is so hard and I wish I could know how to help each and every one of my students individually!

Logging haha, but I know it is important 😊

Having to separate students' issues with my personal life. ie) When I meet with a student with serious struggles and not feeling like I can do more for them is hard.

Struggling to get in touch with all of the students to help them out

Logging in can be stressful sometimes but I got a schedule down

Definitely logging interactions with students

I think logging in the interactions is my least favorite thing.

Probably logging. Or difficult conversations, like figuring out how to address low student grades/involvement in the class

the large number of 1 on 1s that happen in certain weeks.

Some New Students

Logging interactions

Feeling inadequate when faced with different social situations

All the paperwork

Seeing people struggling

Logging in I-plan, it's just tedious (it's important though so I always make sure to do it)

When the students ghost me

Logging

My students/mentees being unresponsive

Logging conversations

More support in communication would be nice.

Although having a flexible schedule is great, it's also stressing having to manage my own time to respond to the instructor 24/7. The fact that she wanted me to answer or acknowledge her messages whenever she sent them was hard because I have a life, responsibilities, assignments, classes, and other things to do. And I separate my time for when I do work and when I don't. Going and checking my the message, when I'm not working means I will stop whatever else I'm doing and I will switch my attention to work, because the message probably requires some action and I won't just read it and forget about it, if I do it I won't do what was asked of me to do later. So that's my problem, the boundaries or work cross with the boundaries or personal life. And although I understand that communication is key, I believe that no job should require you to be alert on whatever is required 24/7. We set limits to the students, why not setting limits to the communication with the professors too? Specially when most of the time is it an urgent or life-threatening situation.

Sometimes others make me feel like I am solely responsible for a student's failure or success. It is stressful to have that expectation hanging over your head, when in reality, a student's failure or success comes from their use of agency, not me. I am here as a resource to help them be successful if they are willing, but I ultimately have no control over how the student is doing nor would that be right.
