WISE Peer Mentoring Program

Attending the University of Iowa the fall of 2019?

Interested in getting an awesome MENTOR to help guide you through your first year on campus?

The Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) Program will begin its 26th year at The University of Iowa in the fall of 2019! WISE provides academic and social support to undergraduate women in Engineering majors.

The WISE Undergraduate Peer Mentoring Program, started in 1996, is the longest-running mentoring program at The University of Iowa! We are very proud of this program and its success. First-year women who participate in our Peer Mentoring Program as mentees tend to graduate with degrees at twice the national average!

One thing we know: Mentoring Works!

Each first-year student (mentee) who enters UI majoring in engineering is matched one-on-one with an upper-level student (mentor) who has a similar major or career interest. The mentor provides academic and social support for her mentee in one-on-one settings, and the WISE Program supplements this relationship with larger group activities, including a welcome event, workshops on topics such as campus involvement, research opportunities, and career development and preparation, as well as several social activities. And while our mentors are not ‘tutors,’ WISE does provide free academic services for participants.

So why should you, as an entering student, be a WISE mentee?

➢ Women who have participated as WISE mentees are retained in STEM majors (through graduation) at significantly higher rates than their peers at UI.
➢ WISE mentors assist first-year students in learning about campus resources and activities, job/internship opportunities, study abroad options, and excellent professors.
➢ WISE workshops introduce students to professional women who have interesting medical, technical, health-related, and engineering careers.
➢ The mentors are upper-level women in engineering fields, many of them were mentees themselves!

What activities are included in the WISE Mentoring Program?

➢ You will attend a Welcome Party after classes start to meet the whole group of WISE mentors and mentees!
➢ Then, you will participate in at least one mentor/mentee meeting each month and attend two workshops and one social event each semester. Because college students are busy with homework and the many activities on campus, we set reasonable expectations for involvement, but many mentors and mentees meet more frequently.

Sample activities and discussion topics with your mentor:

• Attend a sports event, concert, or play;
• Bake cookies, cook dinner, or try a new restaurant;
• Study together at the library or local coffeehouse;
• Discuss study strategies, course selection, and campus/local resources;
• Learn about housing options, summer jobs, volunteer opportunities, etc.
What should I do next if I’m interested in becoming a WISE mentee?

Apply online using the link provided on the wise website!

1. **If you are sure you are coming to UI** and you want to confirm your spot in the Peer Mentoring Program in one step, fill out BOTH the Registration and Confirmation Forms and mail them to WISE with the total fee of $175*.

   **Priority deadline for confirmation is August 1st, 2019**

Matching begins in August continues throughout the fall until our mentor/mentee pool is exhausted or our program reaches capacity. We match on a first-come, first-served basis, keeping in mind students’ majors and career interests. Our goal is to contact mentors and mentees with their matches at the beginning of August so you can start communicating with your mentor before you come to campus.

Please check out our website at [www.uiowa.edu/wise](http://www.uiowa.edu/wise) for more information on all WISE undergrad programs!

“During my undergraduate years at Iowa, the WISE program provided me with support that I couldn’t have received anywhere else in the University environment. I successfully completed my BS and became the first individual in my family headed for graduate school. I had no idea what I needed to do to make myself a competitive applicant! Through WISE events and workshops; the guidance of my peer mentor; and question and answer sessions with graduate students, I learned how to not only become a stronger student but also how to maintain an active life outside of the school. Most importantly, this program was encouraging, not competitive or intimidating, which is crucial to the success of young women scientists and is difficult to find in other school-wide programs.”

--Former WISE Mentee and Peer Mentor