

Peer Mentoring for INFO 203

Are you interested in mentoring new students as they complete INFO 203? If you are interested in online teaching and learning, and enjoy collaborating with others to support our new students as they begin graduate school, this may be a good project for you.

Peer Mentoring offers MLIS students an opportunity to work with new students as they complete INFO 203. If selected to participate, you would register for INFO 298 (3 units, CR/NC) in the upcoming semester (ie the same one as when INFO 203 is running; spring or fall).

Why Be a Peer Mentor?

Previous Peer Mentors consistently report [the professional value of the experience](#) to them. It may also be very good evidence for your ePort with the following [competencies](#):

- H. demonstrate proficiency in identifying, using, and evaluating current and emerging information and communication technologies;
- K. design collaborative or individual learning experiences based on learning principles and theories;
- M. demonstrate professional leadership and communication skills;

If you want online teaching experience for your resume, this project (and the letter of recommendation earned), can be incredibly valuable - it's like an internship!

What Does a Peer Mentor Do?

- **Meet information needs** and allay new student anxiety;
- **Facilitate the development of skills and strategies for success** among new iSchool students;
- **Grade & provide feedback to students** on their submitted work and function as a teaching assistant;
- **Design & deliver instruction** by creating a recorded screencast and by organizing and hosting an online web conferencing session;
- **Learn** about peer mentoring, educational theory, online social networking, and using educational technologies; all in a collaborative real-world team teaching environment.

What is the Schedule Like?

Preparing and working as a peer mentor **takes place over a period of about 10 weeks**. The average time requirement is **about two hours per day most days of the week, but the timing is totally flexible**.

(Remember, 3 units of credit are earned in this project. [As with any 3 unit course the hours/work load is the same](#), but *it's condensed into about 10 weeks.*)

Your prep work starts about 5 weeks BEFORE the start of the semester.

- **If you will be a peer mentor for an upcoming SPRING semester** - *Most of your work will be completed during December, January, and February.*
- **If you will be a peer mentor for an upcoming FALL semester** - *Most of your work will be completed during July, August, and September.*

What are the Requirements?

All work is done online so there is no geographical requirement, but other criteria **MUST** be met:

- **A maximum of six credits may be earned in INFO 298.** You are NOT eligible if you have already completed *more than* three credits of INFO 298.
- **You must be an MLIS student who has completed INFO 200, 202, 203 and 204.** If you are finishing the core classes during the current semester, you *are* eligible.
- **Priority goes to students who are closer to graduation**, and thus will not have additional opportunities to participate.
- **You must be in good academic standing** (not on academic probation).
- **You must be comfortable with technology.** You don't need to know all the answers, but you should enjoy working with technology and feel fairly confident in your ability to learn. This also applies to using/discussing generative AI tools.
- **You must be available to complete a significant amount of preparatory work *in the latter half of our first month together.***
 - **For peer mentoring in the spring semester, that first month is DECEMBER.** You will then need to be able to participate (almost) daily from early January through almost the end of February. The average time requirement is around two hours per day most days of the week, but the timing of the hours is flexible.
 - **For peer mentoring in the fall semester, that first month is JULY.** You will then need to be able to participate (almost) daily from early August through almost the end of September. The average time requirement is around two hours per day most days of the week, but the timing of the hours is flexible.

How Do I Apply?

Applications for peer mentors are accepted in April for the fall semester **and in October** for the upcoming spring. Read more about [INFO 298: Special Studies](#). Then:

- **Complete and submit this [Application Form](#) before the deadline of midnight Sunday November 2nd, 2025.**
 - NOTE: All applicants will get an email notice within 3 days of application closing.
- **Plan to attend the online orientation meeting (will be recorded):** Monday December 1, 2025. 5:30pm-6:30pm Pacific.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: *If I take INFO 298 for 3 credits, is the bulk of the work (on the mentor's part) the pre-semester prep work & then the first four weeks of the semester? Does the peer mentor have to work on anything after that time?*

A: **Almost all of the peer mentor's time is concentrated into a period of about 10 weeks; from kickoff meeting to exactly 4 weeks after the semester has started.** For the spring, it's concentrated in 2 weeks in December (but not over holiday break), all of January, and through most of February. Similarly for the fall semester, most of the work is concentrated in the last two weeks of July, all of August, and the first part of September. After INFO 203 comes to an end (*exactly four weeks after the semester starts*), there is only a reflection due a few months later in the middle of the semester. It is not a big task. We also have an optional final meeting at that time.

Q: *How am I graded for this project?*

A: **There is no letter grade.** INFO 298 is a CR/NC class. (It's actually a real world project, so it's more like a teaching online internship than an academic course.) Peer mentors are required to complete the following:

1. Get reacquainted with the content in the INFO 203 course
2. Complete a variety of preparatory tasks (read, discuss, and apply learning theories, learn how to grade in Canvas etc.)
3. Answer questions and provide encouragement and support for new students
4. Work with a faculty member to review, assess, and respond to student assignment submissions
5. Prepare and present (alone or in a group) an online meet-up session via Zoom
6. Record an instructional screencast
7. Write a reflection on your learning in this project

The peer mentor project and INFO 298 is facilitated by Bethany Winslow. Send additional questions to bethany.winslow@sjsu.edu