

PEER ADVISING PROGRAM- MANUAL 2009



I. Mission Statement:

The mission of the Peer Advising (PA) Program is to provide advice and student perspective about life and learning at BUSM in an informal way to all medical students, primarily in 1st and 2nd year. Peer advising is the student complement to the more formal advising provided by the Academies of Advisors. Through the PA Program, medical students will gain informed student perspective on BUSM that is based on their Peer Advisor's personal experience at BUSM. Formal academic advising will continue to be provided by the Deans and Academy Advisors.

II. Peer Advising Committee (PAC)

Committee Chair:

Hannah Milch (hsmilch@bu.edu)

Match Subcommittee:

Kara Baker (kbaker12@bu.edu)

Jennifer Kao (kaoj@bu.edu)

Sunil Nair (ssnair@bu.edu)

Jenna Wheelhouse (jwheelh1@bu.edu)

Website Subcommittee:

Ryan Gise (rgise@bu.edu)

Shireen Heidari (shireeni@bu.edu)

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Vassiliki Pravodelov (vpravode@bu.edu)

Faculty Sponsors:

Phyllis Carr, M.D., Associate Dean for Student Affairs (plcarr@bu.edu)

Erica Manczuk, Academies Coordinator (emanczuk@bu.edu)

III. Peer Advisor Responsibilities

The responsibilities of Peer Advisors in the 2009-2010 academic year are meant to reflect the new direction of the BUSM Peer Advising Program. We aim to make peer advising an active, integral part of the first-year medical student experience, harnessing the experience of more senior students to aide first-years in their transition to the medical school environment.

Most peer advising will occur in an informal setting – a short email or a quick coffee break. We hope all Peer Advisors will proactively reach out to their Advisees, and encourage them to ask questions and seek assistance – from us, educational resources, etc. – as needed.

Unlike previous years, though, the PAC is implementing minimum requirements for the 2009-2010 Peer Advising Program, outlined in the attached Agreement. These baseline program standards are intended to create accountability for our activities, and to provide a means of measuring our effectiveness in reaching out to first-years.

At a minimum, Peer Advisors should plan to:

- Reach out to Advisees During the Summer (to make initial introductions)
- Attend the Peer Advising Lunch during First-Year Orientation
- Attend Academy of Advisors (a necessary and mandatory part of our medical curriculum ☺) meetings with their Advisees
- Host four ‘Events’ During the Academic Year (3 in the Fall, 1 in the Winter/Spring)

Peer Advisors should also be comfortable working with Program Leaders to address individual student concerns by directing students to the appropriate educational/health resource.

IV. Events and Meetings

REQUIRED EVENTS:

Peer Advisor Luncheon: The OSA-sponsored lunch is a required event for all peer advisors and their advisees. To avoid losing each other among the chaos, you should contact your advisees ahead of time to confirm your meeting time and place.

Academies of Advisors Events: The Academies of Advisors is a required and mandatory part of our curriculum. Therefore, all students should attend ALL Academy events. Plan to attend the Academy events (*movie, breakfast, advisor-hosted meals, etc*) with your advisees and, if plausible, sit at the same table.

RECOMMENDED ORGANIZED EVENTS:

SCOMSA Events: Try to meet up with your advisees BEFORE these events (*Carnival, Bar night, Bowling night, etc*) and attend the event together.

SUGGESTED ADDITIONAL MEETINGS:

Bookstore meet-up: Meet your advisees at the BUSM Bookstore and give your 2 cents on what to buy for his/her 1st year in med school.

Boston Common: Bring advisees to the Boston Public Gardens to enjoy some rare Bostonian sunshine!

Lunch/coffee: Meet advisees for lunch/coffee during the school week.

Revere Beach: Meet advisees for some relaxing time at the beach (on the T's blue line).

New England Aquarium: Visit the NEAQ on Tuesday, October 13, 2009 for FREE! The Aquarium/IMAX also has discounts when you show your BUSM ID. www.neaq.org

Sunday brunch: Meet advisees for a relaxing Sunday brunch at one of the many South End spots.

Gym: Hit the BU gym at the undergraduate campus or the nearby South End gym with your advisees.

Walk Boston: What's the point in living in one of the best walking cities in the US if you never take advantage of it? Catch-up with your advisees while you take a stroll around the South End or the Back Bay. www.walkboston.org has many resources available!

Boston Restaurant Week: Have dinner with your advisees during Boston's restaurant week (usually held in March). Make sure you make your reservations as early as possible since they tend to go fast!

Museum: Visit a Boston museum with your advisees. Most museums (except the Museum of Science) offer student discounts or are completely free.

- The Boston Public Library has a limited number of passes available that offer free or reduced admission to many of the city's museums, including the Museum of Science, the New England Aquarium, the John F. Kennedy Library and Museum, and Zoo New England, among others. You should reserve these passes in advance! http://www.bpl.org/general/circulation/museum_passes.htm
- Bank of America's "Museums on Us!" deal offers free admission to participating museums for all Bank of America customers on the first full weekend (Saturday and Sunday) of every month. <http://museums.bankofamerica.com/>

Some museums that could interest you are:

- Museum of Science: on the Red line <http://www.mos.org/>
- Museum of Bad Art (MOBA): close to Davis square (T red line) <http://www.museumofbadart.org/>
- Museum of Fine Arts (MFA): accessible with the Green "E" train or the Orange line <http://www.mfa.org/>

Volunteer: Spend some quality time with your advisees while serving the community! You can find a variety of one-time volunteer opportunities at www.bostoncares.org

Sports: Boston is one of the greatest sports towns in the country and many teams offer student discounts or group rates. Two or more peer advisors can team up and organize a sporting outing with their advisees!

- Hockey – Boston Bruins: Every Monday through Thursday is Student Night – Tickets are just \$23.50! <http://bruins.nhl.com/index.html>
- Basketball – Celtics: Group discount are available @ <http://www.nba.com/celtics/>
- Baseball – Red Sox: <http://www.bu.edu/today/video/2007/09/30/six-strategies-buying-red-sox-tickets>
- Football – Patriots: no official discounts available but try eBay to find some deals on tickets
- BU Terriers: All games are FREE if you have an activated Sports Pass. <http://www.goterriers.com/tickets/bost-tickets.html>
 - Terrier Men’s Hockey (2009 National Champions!) - \$15-\$18 with Student ID
 - Terrier Women’s Hockey - \$2-\$3 with Student ID
 - Terrier Men’s Basketball - \$4-\$5 with Student ID
 - Terrier Women’s Basketball - \$3-\$5 with Student ID
 - Single-game admission for men's soccer, women's soccer, and women's lacrosse is \$2 for students.

V. Student Resources

Student Support Services:

<http://www.bumc.bu.edu/busm-osa/studentssupportservices/>

Kerry L. Patenaude, M.S. (617-638-4166; kpats@bu.edu)
Assistant Director of Student Support Services 617-638-4166

Confidential Psychiatric Counseling:

Anna L. Fitzgerald, M.D. (617-414-4242; afitzger@bu.edu)

Office of Student Affairs:

Phyllis L. Carr, M.D. (plcarr@bu.edu)
Associate Dean for Student Affairs

Paul O’Bryan, Ph.D. (obryan@bu.edu)
Assistant Dean for Student Affairs
Professor of Physiology and Biophysics

Kenneth Grundfast, M.D., FACS, FAAP (kengrund@bu.edu)
Assistant Dean for Student Affairs

John Polk, M.D. (jipolkmd@bu.edu)
Assistant Dean for Student Affairs

Brenda Stone (bstone@bu.edu)
Assistant Director for Student Affairs

Elizabeth Gallagher (lgal@bu.edu)
Student Programs Coordinator

Erica M. Manczuk (emanczuk@bu.edu)
Academies Coordinator

Elizabeth Dick (ecdick@bu.edu)
Administrative Coordinator

Housing Resources:

David Rini (617-638-5125; drini@bu.edu)
Housing Resource Manager

Financial Aid:

Office of Student Financial Services
72 East Concord Street, Room A401
Boston, Massachusetts 02118-2526
(617) 638-5130 or toll-free (877) 776-6243
FAX: (617) 638-5116
School of Medicine Inquiries: osfs-med@bu.edu

Kathy R. Stavropoulos, Executive Director
Marguerita Eastmond, Administrative Coordinator
Alexis R. Fishbone, Associate Director
Sandia Chau, Assistant Director
Karen Van Dyne, Assistant Director
Joseph F. Corbett, Project Manager

Office of Parking and Transportation Services:

Maureen L. Flaherty
Transportation Coordinator
(617)638-7473
maureenl@bu.edu
710 Albany Street

<http://www.bumc.bu.edu/gs/transcomm/>
<http://www.bu.edu/thebus/>

Medical Student Portal:

<http://www.bumc.bu.edu/busm/BUSM-MedicalStudents.html>

