



THE BLOUNT SCHOLARS PROGRAM  
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES • THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

## **Blount Mentors Description**

The Blount Student Mentors are a cohort of upper-class Blount student volunteers who help facilitate all aspects of incoming Blount students' transition to the Blount Program and undergraduate life at UA. The mentors work under the supervision of a Faculty Advisor to provide incoming students with information, support, and role modeling to ensure their successful adaptation to college life. Through their relationships with incoming students, mentors help to foster a cohesive living and learning community.

### **Objectives**

1. Provide meaningful information, support, encouragement, and guidance to assist the first-year student transition to college life in order to excel in their academic and social surroundings
2. Create an inclusive social environment within the Blount Scholars Program

### **Expectations**

#### **Mentors will...**

- Be welcoming and respectful of everyone regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, disability, or religion
- Be professional.
  - For the mentoring relationship to work, there has to be a mutual understanding between mentor and mentee that conversations between the two of them are respected. Treat every question as a good question and don't joke about either the mentees or their questions or concerns either inside or outside the meeting.
  - Be on time for every meeting. Do not miss a meeting unless under extreme emergency circumstances. In the event that you must miss a meeting, if possible, inform attendees in advance and, in any case, follow-up to reschedule.
  - All group meetings will take place in a public setting (Tuomey Hall, Oliver-Barnard Hall, Living-Learning Center, The Quad, etc.)
- Give priority to their role as a Mentor and the requirements that come with this responsibility
- Represent the Blount Scholars Program in the best light
  - As a mentor, you will shape student impressions of the Blount Scholars Program. Keep this in mind when working with your mentees.

**Mentors will NOT...**

- become romantically involved with their mentees and will not engage in any behavior that violates the university sexual harassment policy (<https://eop.ua.edu/harassment.html>). This includes unwanted touching, sexual or sexist jokes or comments, and pornography.
- purchase alcohol or any illegal substances for their mentees and/or partake in such substances with or in the presence of their mentees. Mentors will not violate the University Alcohol and Drug Policy (<https://studentconduct.sa.ua.edu/policies/alcohol-drug-policy/>).

**Responsibilities**

1. Mentors MUST attend the Mentors Orientation Meeting in order to become a mentor. If any additional meetings are called by the Director of the Blount Scholars Program, Assistant Director of the Blount Scholars Program, or the Faculty Advisor, the mentor must attend. An absence will be excused only in extreme circumstances.
2. Organize and staff, in conjunction with the Blount Ambassadors, the Blount Orientation for Incoming Students each August. Every mentor MUST be present at this orientation.
3. Conduct regular meetings with mentees throughout their first year. Once you have committed to being a mentor, you can not abandon your mentees. Each mentor will be assigned a small group of mentees with whom they meet on a regular schedule each semester. Your meeting schedule must include the following as a minimum.
  - a. Fall semester: one meeting during the first full week of class, one meeting on the third full week of class, one meeting before midterm/registration, and one meeting before final exams.
  - b. Spring semester: one formal meeting before registration for fall classes, and you should continue to monitor your email or GoupMe for questions.
  - c. Mentors will maintain contact with their mentee group through Crimson E-Mail or GroupMe and answer questions through email or GroupMe in a timely manner.
4. Document the attendees and discussions at each meeting. Mentors will have access to a Blackboard page where they can post information about the meeting. Within 48 hours of each meeting, the mentor must submit the following information:
  - a. The date, time, and location of the meeting.
  - b. The names of the individuals present at and absent from the meeting.
  - c. A list of topics that were discussed during the meeting.
5. Communicate issues and concerns from your mentees to Blount administration. If any urgent and/or serious issues arise contact Student Care and Wellbeing or UAPD. If you don't know what to do, contact the director or assistant director of Blount.

**Topics to Cover (including, but not limited to):**

**Living Transition**

- Living in the Blount LLC
  - Responsible Stewardship of the LLC: Behavioral Protocols
  - Daily Life Tasks: laundry, meals, mailbox, etc.
  - Having Roommates, Neighbors, and Guests
- Oliver Barnard & Tuomey
  - Studying
  - Using the Kitchens
- Navigating Campus
- Navigating Tuscaloosa and Surrounding Area
- Safety

**Academic Transition**

- The Blount Curriculum – Foundations, Convocation, 300-level seminars, Worldviews
- The University Curriculum – Core, Majors, Minors, Advising, Study Abroad, Course Registration
- Student Services Network

**Social Transition**

- Achieving balance between academics and social life
- Joining groups and clubs
- Participating in the Blount community

**\*\*\*Mentors may and will be dismissed from the program if found in violation of the Student Honor Code, Student Code of Conduct, or expectations outlined in this document\*\*\***

I have read, understand, and agree to abide by the Blount Scholars Program’s mentoring expectations.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Print: \_\_\_\_\_