

**OAKLAND  
UNIVERSITY**

**Pre-College  
Programs**

# Mentors Message...



Mentor's Name: Melissa  
Zwolinski  
Major: Secondary Education  
History  
Minor: Social Studies  
Mentor Since: 2011

Time management skills and goal setting helped me to be a successful student in college. College is a major change and, for many students, it is the first time that they get to be on their own and wholly responsible for themselves. Sometimes this freedom takes over and students lose sight of the real reason they came to college. Having good time management skills helps keep education at the forefront of the college experience and helps students harness their newfound freedom in a responsible way. There were so many times that I wanted to do fun activities with my friends; however, I knew that I had a paper to get done for my 8 A.M. class or a Spanish assignment to finish before I could have my fun. I would set aside a certain time each day to work on homework and, once my homework was done, I would go and have fun. I used an agenda faithfully and was never one of those students who had to pull an all-nighter trying to get an assignment done. College is about being responsible for yourself and my time management skills put me in charge of my homework. Once I had control over my homework, I found it easier to complete and less overwhelming. Plus, I could have all the fun I wanted once all my homework was out of the way.

Another way I became a successful college student was by setting goals. My overall goal for college was to graduate with a bachelor's degree enabling me to become a history/social studies teacher. I made sure this goal was attainable and my advisors helped me map out a timeline of when my goal could be achieved. Once I mapped out my goal, it was up to me to fulfill it. I made sure I signed up for the classes I needed and made sure that my grades were good. Goals don't have to only be related to education. Throughout my college career I made several goals – have a job to support myself, make new friends, get involved, etc. By having clear goals, a set timeframe for completing them, and a way to make them happen, I enabled myself to have more power over my future. In turn, I learned the value of being responsible and mature, which had a positive impact on my success as a college student.



Mentor's Name: Stephanie  
Cole  
Major: Elementary  
Education  
Mentor Since: 2012

Hello! My name is Stephanie Cole and I am a mentor for the OU Department of Pre-College Programs. I am graduating from Oakland University on April 27, 2013 with a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education. I started working for the Pre-College Programs in June 2012. I am so happy to be a part of such a wonderful group of people and know that we are able to work with young students and help them achieve their goals and prepare for college.

College was not always easy. As a freshman, I struggled in my classes because they were so different than my classes in high school. Don't let the hard classes discourage you from going to college and continuing on! The first few years were the hardest because of the large class sizes and general education classes that I was not interested in. Once I got into my program and began to have the same people in my classes, I enjoyed college so much more. I was not only interested in my classes, but I began to form friendships too. I also joined a student organization, and was able to work in the community with students. It is beneficial to join a student organization for the experiences, friendships, and resources. Being a part of a student organization is not only a great opportunity to make new friends who have the same interests as you, but to network and gain the resources you need for after graduation.

My advice to you as an incoming freshman is to study, keep priorities straight, use resources the college has available, talk to professors and get involved with campus life. Enjoy every moment of college and don't let anything discourage or get in the way of fulfilling your dream! College is very possible and if you stick to it your dreams will come true too!



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## Mentors Message...



Mentor's Name: Chynele  
Stewart

*Student Office Assistant*

Major: Communication

Mentor Since: 2011

I strongly advise that incoming freshmen and transfer students become a part of Oakland's campus life by living on campus, if feasible. Being a part of the campus community plays a major role in the college experience. Of course being a student is the most important aspect of being in college, but campus life is what I believe creates the experience. Living on campus allows you to meet new people, learn your school, and get involved in residence hall activities. It also allows you to learn about yourself while cohabitating with others, build lasting relationships, as well as be made aware of all the things going on around campus that you could get involved in.

Being involved is also another very important aspect of campus life. Even though I lived on campus, I did not really feel like I was a part of Oakland University until I got involved and joined a club. Joining that club was the spark to the blazing trail of success that soon followed me. Becoming a member of the Student Video Productions Club (SVP) led to a job on the executive board of that club, an internship that following summer, and lasting relationships with faculty and students in the Communication community. Since then I have also acquired jobs in other departments such as Pre-College Programs and the Center for Multicultural Initiatives where I have held leadership positions. This trail may seem insignificant to others, but it has truly been the experience that shaped who I am today and the person I have yet to become.



Mentor's Name: Nancy  
VanRaemonck

Major: Psychology

Mentor Since: 2011

Simply put, my experience at Oakland University has been a blessing. My educational experience has molded me to become a responsible, informed and driven student. My social experience has taught me the importance of treating others with respect and showed me the value of true friendship. I have learned to prioritize, set goals and be proactive. Oakland University provided me with all the necessary resources and opportunities to create my bright future. Oakland University provides a solid foundation for students to thrive.

I highly recommend Oakland University to prospective students, especially those seeking an institution that cares for its students. I've never felt mistreated by Oakland University in any way and I truly believe that if I had a serious concern, it would be addressed.

With any endeavor, your results are based largely on your personal efforts. In other words, you get out what you put in. Attending Oakland University has been challenging, rigorous and, at times, very stressful. A college education is no easy feat, but Oakland University is dedicated to its students' success. If a student is motivated and has plans to succeed, Oakland University is a great place to go to reach their goals.



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## Mentors Message...



Mentor's Name: Kendra  
Agee

*Student Office Assistant*

Major: English

Minor: Social Work

Mentor Since: 2012

Working for Pre-College Programs has influenced my life in so many different ways. With a major in English and a minor in sociology; I came into this position as a mentor looking to simply be a role model for demographics of young people who came from similar circumstances that I endured during my adolescent years. Through mentoring, I was taught how my own personal leadership skills can build upon the overall moral of a group. I was also taught just how imperative education is to our youth which in turn effected the direction of my career after graduation. I have recently applied for graduate school with the anticipation of gaining my masters in higher education leadership here at Oakland.

My hopes are to go on and not only be able to work in student affairs, but to create opportunities for disadvantaged youth by using resources like the department of Pre-College Programs. Also creating these resources where they can't be found and actually helping in the cultivation of families who will use these sources and hopefully give back to the next generation.

