

2018-19 AP Scholar Mentors

Beyond Access

Access to AP classes is certainly important, but it's not enough for schools to simply encourage aspiring first-generation college students to challenge themselves. College courses can be daunting and difficult, and it takes time to develop the skills, habits, and mindset necessary for success. As colleges have found out, one of the best sources of academic sustenance is a peer network of students who have walked in their shoes and have figured out paths to success. The Senator Scholars program is a perfect source for these experienced peer mentors.

Overview

AP teachers at Madison require study groups in all AP classes, and Junior and senior Scholars who have already earned 3s, 4s and 5s on an AP exam can apply to serve as mentors for those study groups. The focus is helping first-time or struggling AP students identify and use college-level strategies for organization, reading AP texts, notes-taking, writing, and studying.

S-MAP Service

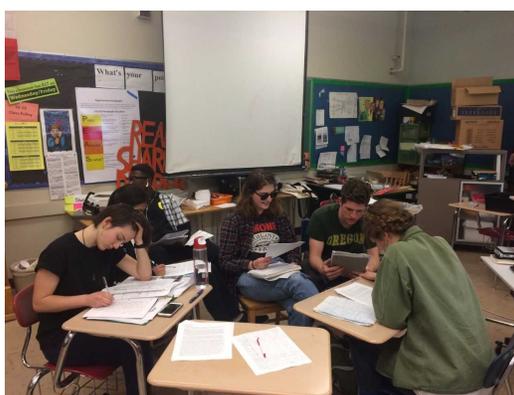
- **Twice a month**, SMAP peer mentors will help facilitate **study groups** for specific AP courses.
- The specific days/times of these meetings will depend on the AP teachers, but most of these meetings will take place during ELT. Sometimes, AP teachers may prefer to hold these meetings during lunch.
- **Quarterly check-in meetings**--will be scheduled in which the SMAP mentors will discuss curriculum and skills with the AP teachers whose classes they are assigned to help.
- **Exam Prep Study Sessions**--In the final month before the AP exams, SMAP students will be expected to attend at least 1-2 study sessions to help students prepare for their exams. These will occur Saturday, during grading days, or after school. AP teachers will announce the specific days/times in the early Spring.

Peer Mentors: What's in it for you?

- This program will be an outstanding demonstration of leadership and a valuable addition to your resume, as college admissions officers have noted that this kind of academic service makes students thoughtful, reflective, and ultimately better college students.
- Peer Mentors will help leave a legacy at Madison that will pay dividends. By helping students improve their performance on AP exams, you will be giving your high school a boost, which will ultimately give the value of your own diploma a boost.

"Fridays at lunch helped students to push themselves farther than would have been possible otherwise. Many students came to look forward to and rely on the Friday sessions. For many of the students in AP Psychology, they are getting their first taste of college rigor. And, for many, the class pushes them to the outer limits of their abilities. The Friday session was a much needed scaffold that allowed them to succeed beyond where they would have otherwise."

--Mr. James, AP Psychology Teacher



"The AP students in the S-MAP program gain valuable insights and important skills. It's so powerful for them to learn from their peers. I watched my SMAP peer mentor learn leadership skills. He found renewed motivation to launch his own project. It's just a wonderful program for all involved."

--Mr. Owens, AP Music Theory Teacher

2016-2017 SMAP Peer Mentoring Success

The following AP courses integrated the AP SMAP Peer Mentors extensively and saw big gains in their average AP exam scores:

- **AP Psychology**--2.31 (2016) to 2.81 (2017)
(SMAP Peer Mentors facilitated weekly lunch review sessions and Saturday exam prep sessions)
- **AP US History**--2.0 (2016) to 2.59 (2017)
(SMAP Peer Mentors facilitated ELT study groups and Saturday Exam Prep sessions)
- **AP Language and Composition**--2.34 to 2.54
(SMAP Peer Mentors working with students to prepare for their essay exams during ELT)