Executive Summary (1600 character limit, approx. 250 words or less)

"This generation’s greatest influence is their peers which is why the Peer Coaching program utilizes student leaders to support all first-year students transition into UWB. They meet individually once a month to set goals around academic achievement, community acclimation, and personal development. Through strong relationships and resource referrals, they increase students’ sense of belonging, mattering, and purpose.

SAF funding will allow 15 of our original 30 peer coaches to continue winter and spring quarters. This means there are two coaching teams in the spring (incoming and returning). The program manager doesn’t have the capacity to oversee both, so we are asking for funds to be put toward a graduate assistant who can co-manage the program. This would allow us to support students in danger of academic probation, respond to early alerts, and provide students with the opportunity to tailor their involvement at UWB; we are the soft handoff to opportunities such as study abroad, research, on-campus jobs, clubs, and more.

61% of first-year students said having a peer coach would be helpful every quarter- we’d like to offer that service but cannot do so without supplemental funding. OTP will continue to cover the cost of our flagship program, which includes the incoming 30 peer coaches’ pay in addition to the $80,000 for the program manager and team lead who implement the program. Knowing the ongoing constraints on SAF, we found ways to adapt and are asking for $61,207 less than what we requested last year and $29,631 less than what we were awarded."

Need for Program (1600 character limit, approx. 250 words or less)

The Peer Coaching program benefits the campus community winter in spring in two main ways.

1. On a broad scale, peer coaches help hundreds of students develop skills around self-awareness, growth mindset, and the resiliency needed to overcome personal struggles to thrive in college. Students who use coaching increase their self-efficacy and determination as they identify their personal goals and create intentional plans.
2. On a more focused scale, we have partnered with the Academic Success Coach (ASC) to provide proactive interventions for students who are in danger of academic probation. This includes submitting case notes, CARE Team reports, referrals to financial aid, and even notifying the registrar when a student is considering leaving the institution.

Students who are connected to their peers, faculty, and staff have a better campus experience than those who are not. Our program helps students gain a sense of connection, but it only lasts one quarter. We don’t have the means to reach out to the 111 first-year students who earned at least one D or F during autumn or the 75 who are on academic warning. Academic success is often impacted by external factors such as mental health, food security, familial responsibilities, and access to financial resources. Because of their established relationships, peer coaches are the staff best poised to work with students to discern the underlying issues of academic hardships and refer them to campus partners. Currently, there is no other unit with the capacity to support students at this level."

Is this a new request? No

What on your request is new or has changed?

This year we removed all programming dollars (events, marketing, supplies, etc.) and only kept student and graduate assistant pay. We also reduced the amount of peer coaches we are keeping on to keep costs minimal.

Strategic Plan (1000 character limit, approx. 150 words or less)

"OTP is working with Academic Affairs and EMSA partners to grow coaching across campus and make it a signature program at UWB, one that spans all four years. For this to happen, OTP needs to be able to serve first-year students throughout the academic year.

This winter and spring, the coaching program is collaborating with the ASC to pilot intervention strategies to ensure a range of first-year students remain off academic probation. We’re also partnering with the Office of Connected Learning to empower students to utilize the wealth of high impact practices we offer at UWB.

Winter and spring 2024, we hope to elevate that experience to intentionally support all first-year students wherever they are in their development, not just those facing hardships. Currently, there is no structured coaching beyond a first-year’s first quarter – funding would enable collaboration to continue as we design a system that supports students at all levels of their journey."
Assessment (1600 character limit, approx. 250 words or less)

"Since the formal Peer Coach program has launched, we've seen a steady increase of meetings each year. In Fall 2020 (during the pandemic), 41% (407) of all first-year students met with their peer coach. We reached 59% (526) of first-year students in Fall 2021 and 76% (742) in Fall 2022. OTP funds these hours.

We've seen a similar upward trend during winter and spring quarters, although each year we've focused on different populations. Winter – spring 2021, we held 546 total meetings. That increased to 604 over the same two quarters in 2022.

We measure the program on sense of belongingness, utilization of campus resources, retention rates, and academic success. Survey results from 2022's first-year cohort show positive trends in these sectors.

- 78% of students surveyed agreed or strongly agreed that they would recommend meeting a peer coach to a friend.
- 79% of students surveyed agreed or strongly agreed that their peer coach connected them with helpful resources on campus.
- 88% of students surveyed agreed or strongly agreed that peer coaching is a valuable resource.
- 92% of students who met with their peer coach said they are more prepared or confident for Winter Quarter because of their peer coach."

Salary Positions

"Graduate Assistant: Supports the program manager with peer coach supervision and development as well as training and facilitation. Without the graduate assistant, we do not have the capacity to employ coaches during spring quarter, which means OTP would not be able to coordinate academic intervention or engagement opportunities for first-year students.

Peer Coaches: Implement a researched coaching model to support all UWB students through one-on-one coaching sessions. They work with campus partners to connect students to relevant resources and provide individualized support. Session notes, alerts, and cases are all housed in Navigate in order to provide a holistic picture of a student's journey through the university. Coaches utilize effective communication skills to foster a trusting and empowering relationship with students."
Total Amount (please note the total dollar value)
$126,393

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