

*As iron sharpens iron,
so a man sharpens
the countenance of his friend.*

Proverbs 27:17

Amigo Peer Mentoring
Program Handbook
2016-2017

Messiah College Intercultural Office
Multicultural Programs

Contact Information

Scott Hwang

Director of Multicultural Programs

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**Assistant Director of Multicultural Scholarship Programs
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Class of 2020 Mentors

Martin

Nathaniel Apgar

Olivia Rossi

Britney M. Yauger

Amigo

Arion Dominique

Kira Fernandez

Jennifer Gonzalez

Timothy Gover

Paula Holtzinger

Anthony Johnson

Ashley Karpiak

Brihtric Prather

Tazia Rice

Kassidy Singleton

Kierra Smith

Rachel Taylor

Gabriel Zamora

Mission

Fostering Multicultural Scholars in the areas of academics, service, and leadership in order to prepare for reconciliation in the church and society.

Goals

Multicultural Scholars will:

- Be better prepared to engage successfully in college-related activities, curricular and co-curricular alike.
- Receive one-on-one peer guidance on how to manage college expectations, social life and diversity in our community.
- Be connected to at least one upper class student.
- Be more connected to the Multicultural Programs Office and will see it as a resource.

General Scholarship Program Requirements

- Students who receive a Multicultural Scholarship must maintain at least a cumulative 2.5 GPA in their first year and at least a cumulative 3.0 GPA in subsequent years.
- The scholarships are awarded once a year and begin in the fall semester. They are renewable for up to four years at Messiah College.
- Students must complete all components of the program in any given year to maintain the scholarship.
- Students must show continued involvement in leadership, service, or ministry at Messiah.
- To graduate with the Multicultural Scholar Cord, students must successfully complete the program.
- Students who lose the scholarship because of academics may remain in the program and graduate with Multicultural Scholar Cord as long as all other requirements are met.

- If planning to study abroad, the student must communicate the intent with the *Assistant Director of Multicultural Scholarship Programs* in a timely manner.
- Students will be expected to respect the Messiah College community covenant and maintain good standing with the college by not being placed on academic or disciplinary probation or suspension.

Policies:

Participation: Active, informed participation is absolutely essential. Meaningful participation involves careful preparation, consistent verbal contributions, and respectful listening. As we will discover together, engaging ideas and experiences in a supportive, collaborative learning environment is a great foundation for the kinds of collaborative work you will do as leaders at Messiah.

Attendance: You are expected to arrive to events and group meetings on time and stay for the full duration. **Attendance is required at all meetings and events outlined for your cohort in this handbook.** Remember that full participation in the program is required to maintain your scholarship. Therefore, unless there are exceptional circumstances (e.g., protracted, documented illness), you may not miss any of the program events. If you are experiencing significant, unavoidable circumstances that may cause you to miss a scheduled event, please notify the *Assistant Director of Multicultural Scholarship Programs* as soon as you are able. You may be required to complete additional work to make up for your absence.

That said, please advise the facilitators of any known conflicts in advance and in writing, including athletic events and performances. *If you expect to have an absence due to special circumstances (e.g., a scheduled athletic event in which you are an athlete), please notify the Assistant Director of Multicultural Scholarship Programs within the first week of the term.*

Comportment: Please leave your cell phones off and your laptops (and other electronic devices) in their cases, unless otherwise instructed. Practice respect for your facilitators, guest speakers and classmates: no sleeping, no Facebook, no texting, and no otherwise disruptive or distracting behavior. If you fail to behave in an appropriate manner, you will be considered as not fully participating in the program. In extreme cases, you may be asked you to leave the session.

Inclusive Language: Please carefully review Messiah's Statement on Inclusive Language in the Messiah College Student Handbook pp. 151-154. Particularly in a program like this, where we are paying attention to the dynamics of social and historical categories such as race, gender, class, religion, etc., it is crucial that we remember that, "language, as a means of signifying and communicating, is not static or value-free."

"Stuff" happens: Things happen in life. And when "stuff" happens, please let the *Assistant Director of Multicultural Scholarship Programs* know as soon as humanly possible. If you have something going on in your life, we can try to help you, but if you don't tell us, we won't know and you will be penalized.

Academic Difficulty

If a student is deemed to be in academic difficulty by being either at risk of failing one or more courses or earning a GPA lower than required to maintain the scholarship, he/she will meet with the *Assistant Director of Multicultural Scholarship Programs* to identify a plan for success specific to him/her. Strategies may include, but are not limited to:

- Meet biweekly with the *Assistant Director* or another educator mentor
- Attend study hall sessions
- Use other academic resources on campus on a regular basis

As previously stated, recipients of a Multicultural Scholarship must maintain a minimum G.P.A. in each year that they receive the scholarship in order to continue to receive the scholarship for the next year. The minimum GPA is 2.5 for the first year and 3.0 each year thereafter.

The criterion for continuance of this scholarship is based on either a yearly GPA or your cumulative GPA. In other words, if either your cumulative GPA or your GPA for the two semesters of the most recently completed academic year meet the minimum for your scholarship, you will continue to receive the scholarship for the next academic year.

If you do not meet either of the above criteria, you will receive a probationary semester during which you will continue to receive the scholarship and can attempt to increase your GPA. At the end of the probationary semester, if you meet either the cumulative GPA criterion, or if your GPA for the past three semesters (the probationary semester and the two semesters during which you failed to re-qualify) is up to the requirement for your grade level, you will regain the scholarship for the

semester following the probation and will continue to receive it as long as you continue to meet the requirements.

You will receive only one probationary semester during your time at Messiah College. If you fail to re-qualify after the probationary period, you will lose your scholarship, with no opportunity to regain it in the future. If you re-qualify after the probationary period, but fail to re-qualify at any time in the future under either criteria in the above paragraph, you will lose your scholarship, with no opportunity to regain it in the future.

ADA STATEMENT (Americans with Disabilities Act)

Messiah College welcomes students with disabilities to participate in all of its courses, programs, services and activities. If you have a documented disability and are requesting accommodations, please:

- 1) Contact the Director of Disability Services, Amy Slody, in Murray Library 115, by phone (796-7258) or email aslody@messiah.edu. If your documentation meets the college's documentation guidelines, you will be given a letter from the Office of Disability Services for your professors and
- 2) As early as possible in the semester, set up an appointment to meet with the *Assistant Director of Multicultural Scholarship Programs*. During this meeting, we will discuss the academic adjustments specified in your accommodations letter as they pertain to this program. Please note accommodations are not granted in a retroactive fashion.

Finally

We look forward to working with you! Never hesitate to ask questions. We also welcome feedback and suggestions about what can be done to help you get the most out of your experience in this program.

First Year Program Requirements

All first year scholars will:

- Attend all program events as outlined in the following pages. *
- Meet individually with a peer mentor twice each semester (or 4 times a year).
- Schedule and attend a yearly 30-minute check-in meeting with the *Assistant Director of Multicultural Scholarship Programs*.
- Volunteer 5 hours per year in an off-campus program. Required participation in the MLK Service Project and April Service Day fulfill this requirement. *

Summary reports *

- It is your responsibility to submit a one paragraph summary report for three of the required events, one for your 5 hours of service and one for your peer mentoring relationship to the *Assistant Director of Multicultural Scholarship Programs* by way of Canvas in order to receive “credit” for the experience.

Requirements Check List

	Date completed	Details/Notes
Fall peer mentor meeting		
Fall peer mentor meeting		
Submit fall program event report on Canvas		
Submit fall program event report on Canvas		

	Date completed	Details/Notes
Submit fall program event report on Canvas		
Spring peer mentor meeting		
Spring peer mentor meeting		
Submit peer mentor report on Canvas after 4 meetings		
30 minute check-in with Neryamn		
MLK service project		
Spring service project		
Other volunteer service		
Submit 5 hours of service report on Canvas		
Submit spring program event report on Canvas		
Submit spring program event report on Canvas		
Submit spring program event report on Canvas		

First Year Amigo Calendar 2016-2017

(subject to change)

Fall

Thur. August 25, 2-3:00, Union (Move-in Day)	Multicultural Scholarship Programs (MCSP) Information Session
Sun. August 28, 12-2:00, Boyer Howe Atrium & Patio	Multicultural Programs Welcome Picnic
Sat. September 10, 9:30-12:00, Jordan Atrium	FY MCSP Congress
Sat. September 17 or Oct 1, LOFT	FY MCSP Team Building Activity
October 8 or 9	FY Cohorts Meeting I
October 29 or 30	FY Cohorts Meeting II
November 12 or 13	FY Cohorts Meeting III
Thur. December 8, 5:30, Orchard Hill	ICO Holiday Party with President Phipps

J-term

January 14 or 15	FY Cohort Meeting IV
Mon. January 16 (register with Melissa)	Martin Luther King Service Day
January 17	Martin Luther King Chapel
Sat. January 21	Admissions Scholarship Day (Please check your availability to host a student overnight, speak on a panel or host a lunch table.)

Spring

Sat. February 18, 9:30-12:00, Jordan Atrium	FY MCSP Congress
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February 4 or 5	FY Cohort Meeting V
Fri. February 10	Admissions Scholarship Day (Please check your availability to host a student overnight, speak on a panel or host a lunch table.)
Mon. February 13	Admissions Scholarship Day (Please check your availability to host a student overnight, speak on a panel or host a lunch table.)
March 25 or 26	FY Cohort Meeting VI
Thur. April 6	Legacy Banquet
Sat. April 8	International Banquet (FY participants & mentors purchase tickets from Sheryl Scaramuzzino at a discounted price the same week the tickets are sold to the general public. Watch for an email with the details.)
Thur. April 20	April Service Day
Fri. April 21, 4:30, Martin Commons	ICO Celebration Dinner
April 29-30	FY Cohort Celebration Dinners