The transition from high school to college can be difficult, filled with many changes, challenges, and choices.

Imagine if there were someone during a student's first year at UC Merced to help guide him or her through some of these important issues. Imagine how different, how much more manageable, the transition to college would be.

Research has shown that **one of the most important factors that contribute to the likelihood of college success is providing incoming students with a peer mentor**. To that end, the Peer Mentoring Program is uniquely designed to help freshmen smoothly adjust to life at UC Merced. The aim of the program is to help new students successfully settle in shortly after arrival by offering them an opportunity to join a peer mentoring group and to be mentored by more experienced students. Peer mentors will provide critical guidance, friendship, and support for new students.