

## Background

Since 1999 Western Oregon University has partnered with Talmadge Middle School in Independence, Oregon to foster positive mentoring relationships. January through June, Western Oregon undergraduates mentor Talmadge students. The mentoring relationship focuses on developing skills for academic success, emotional and social growth, and provides a forum for developing problem solving approaches to student concerns and issues. Mentors are positive role models, good listeners, advocates and guides for Talmadge students.

### Overview and Timeline

Fall term (before mentoring begins)  
Interested individuals submit an application to participate. Applications are due the first Friday in November. Applicants also attend a mandatory application meeting. Accepted applicants register for Psy 410 Mentoring I (4 credits) for Winter term. During Fall term mentors complete a criminal background check, observe and attend a tour of Talmadge middle school.

Winter term (enrolled in Psy 410 Mentoring I) .  
Mentors attend mandatory training sessions scheduled the first two weeks of Winter term. Mentors meet the mentee and establish a mentoring schedule for 4 contact hours per week at Talmadge after school. Mentors attend mandatory mentor class meetings scheduled on Monday evenings every two weeks. Mentors communicate with parents, and teachers, the WOU faculty sponsor, maintain a journal and track hours at Talmadge. Additionally, mentors maintain a journal and track attendance with timesheets.

Spring term (enrolled in Psy 411 Mentoring II).  
Mentors continue work at Talmadge during spring term, including 4 contact hours with the mentee scheduled afterschool. Additionally, mentors attend mandatory class meetings scheduled on Monday evenings every two weeks.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. What is a mentor?

*Mentors are positive role models, good listeners, advocates, and guides. Mentors develop a trust relationship and help the middle school student (i.e., mentee) develop skills for academic success, problem solving, emotional, and social growth.*

### 2. Would I be a tutor?

*No. Mentors are matched with Talmadge middle school students (grades 6-8) with a variety of personal, social, and/or academic challenges. Many mentees have low grades and need help with academics, while others need help in other areas. Mentors are encouraged to help mentees develop problem solving skills that can be applied to a variety of challenges (academic, social, etc).*

### 3. What type of kid will I mentor?

*Talmadge middle school students (grades 6-8) who are experiencing personal, social, and/or academic challenges participate in the program. Teachers nominate students who they believe would benefit from working with a responsible college students. Additionally some parents request mentors.*

### 4. Where does mentoring take place?

*All mentoring occurs at Talmadge middle school in Independence Oregon. Mentors cannot leave the Talmadge campus with mentees.*

### 5. What type of training will receive?

*All mentors receive training prior to starting the mentoring relationship. Mentors are trained on stages of mentoring relationships, mandatory reporting, goal setting, and communication with teachers, and parents. Mentors receive ongoing training and support through required mentor meetings during winter and spring term.*

### 6. How will being a mentor help me?

*The program gives you the opportunity to make a difference in the community, gain real world experience in the domain of helping others, while earning upper division course credit. Some mentors have found this experience helpful in gaining admission to graduate school and they report feeling more prepared for entering the job market compared to students who have not participated in the program.*

### 7. How do the credits work? Can I apply them to the Psychology major or minor?

*All students who participate are required to enroll in Psy 410 Mentoring I winter term, and Psy 411 Mentoring II spring term. You must make a two term commitment to participate. Psy 411 Mentoring II can be applied to the Psychology major or minor. Psy 410 Mentoring I cannot count for the Psychology major or minor, but it can count for upper division credits required to reach 180 to graduate. All credits count as P/NC.*

### 8. What is the time commitment? Will I be able to fit it into my class schedule?

*Mentors are expected to schedule 4 hours of mentoring at Talmadge each week. Mentoring must start when school lets out (typically at 3:15). Some students schedule two 2 hour blocks (i.e., Tuesday and Thursdays from 3:15-5:15). Additionally you are required to attend mentor meetings scheduled on Mondays approximately once every two weeks.*

## Requirements for Participation

1. Complete and submit an application to Participate. Application is due first Friday in November.
2. Attend mandatory application meeting.
3. Complete standard police criminal background check
4. Attend tour of Talmadge Fall term (date/time TBA)
5. Observe at lunches at Talmadge Fall term (date/time TBA)
6. Register for Psy 410 Mentoring I Winter term, and Psy 411 Mentoring II Spring term.
7. Attend mandatory Mentor training sessions at the beginning of Winter term.
8. Schedule 4 contact hours per week at Talmadge
9. Develop communication system with parents and teachers
10. Follow Talmadge rules and WOU Mentoring program rules
11. Attend all mandatory mentor meetings
12. Maintain a journal and timesheets to track experiences at Talmadge.
13. Complete required readings and class activities.
14. Engage in goal setting and tracking with mentee.

Individuals interested in learning more about the WOU-Talmadge Middle School mentoring program are encouraged to explore the WOU-TMS website for potential mentors or contact WOU faculty sponsor Chehalis Strapp

### WOU-TMS Mentoring Program

#### Website with Information for Potential Mentors

[http://www.wou.edu/las/behavioral\\_sciences/talmadge/potentialmentors.php](http://www.wou.edu/las/behavioral_sciences/talmadge/potentialmentors.php)

#### Faculty Sponsor

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# Western Oregon University- Talmadge Middle School Mentoring Program

