



What is NJ GEAR UP?

NJ GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) offers educational support and assistance to middle and high school students to help them prepare for and enroll in a college or university.

What's a GEAR UP mentor?

A GEAR UP mentor is a supportive adult who agrees to assist a young person to help him or her make the right decisions so that they can achieve their academic, personal and career goals.

What does a NJ GEAR UP mentor do?

A NJ GEAR UP mentor shares his/her college experience to show the importance of staying in school and going to college. They participate in program activities such as, one-on-one mentoring, group mentoring, after-school tutoring, Saturday classes, and field trips to colleges.

Who can become a NJ GEAR UP mentor?

Full- or part-time undergraduate and graduate students can be mentors. Professionals can also be mentors.

What do mentors get from the relationship?

Mentors can gain satisfaction and fulfillment knowing that they are making a difference in the lives of GEAR UP students. In addition, mentors are paid an hourly wage by the program site.

How often do NJ GEAR UP mentors and GEAR UP students meet?

Mentors and students meet for about five hours a week. This time is flexible. You can work with the Program Director at your site to establish appropriate hours.

How long am I required to stay with the program?

Mentors are asked to make an initial six-month commitment.

Are the activities supervised or unsupervised?

All activities are supervised by program site staff.

How old are GEAR UP students?

GEAR UP students range from 12-18 years old.

What is the process I must go through to become a mentor?

Mentors must complete an application, interview, and a criminal background check. If your application is accepted, a program site staff member at the desired work site location will contact you for an interview. There are also mandatory training workshops that mentors are required to attend. All trainings are primarily conducted by the program site.

Where will mentoring activities be held?

Mentors work primarily at the college campus where they were hired. Programs are located at New Jersey City University (GEAR UP/College Bound program), New Jersey Institute of Technology (The Consortium for Pre-College Education in Newark), Rowan University (C.H.A.M.P./GEAR UP Program, Passaic County Community College (SMT/GEAR UP Program), Stockton University (GOALS GEAR UP Program) and Salem Community College (SCC and PGCP School District GEAR UP for Success)

Where are the students enrolled in school?

Students attend [target schools](#) in Atlantic City/Pleasantville, Camden, Jersey City, Newark, Paterson and Penns Grove Carneys Point.

For an application, please contact, NJ GEAR UP Program Specialist Yasmin Robinson, by e-mail at Yasmin.Robinson@oshe.nj.gov or click here for [a hardcopy application](#).