

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is LEADR and who can participate?

A: LEADR's mission is to recruit, retain and graduate a diverse population of students from the College of Engineering. Participants must be engineering students who meet one or more of the following criteria:

- first generation and/or Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) students
- are from historically underserved groups in engineering
- Participated in the Special Transitional Enrichment Program (STEP)
- Past participation in the MESA Engineering Pre-College or Community College Program, AVID, Upward Bound, or similar pre-college enrichment programs

Q: How long will I have my LEADR advising hold?

A: You will have your LEADR advising hold once a quarter for your first two years of school. For quarters 1-4, you will meet with Laura Hackett, or another designated LEADR advisor. For quarters 5 and 6, you will meet with your program advisor. If you are a transfer student, you will meet with your LEADR advisor for the first year. Students are encouraged to meet regularly with their LEADR advisor, regardless of class year.

Q: I'm thinking of changing my major, what will happen to my LEADR hold?

A: If you decide to change your major within the College of Engineering, your hold will remain. If you decide to change your major to a program outside of the College of Engineering, your hold will remain until your major is officially changed. Throughout the time you are changing your major, we want to ensure you are successful. The LEADR program will support your academic transition to the new major by discussing it with you and making sure you meet with your new program advisor to develop an academic plan. Once you officially change your major and are no longer in the College of Engineering, you will no longer have a LEADR hold.

Q: What are LEADR Weekly Meetings?

A: Each quarter, 1-hour weekly meetings are scheduled for check in, as a group, on how school is going and to address any questions/concerns. Students in their second year or above have meetings every other week, or at least two times a month. A variety of topics that address your academic and personal growth are covered by industry alumni, faculty, and campus programs including professional development advice, how to pursue undergraduate research, study abroad, stress management, laboratory tours, etc. Students can also request topics to be covered that pertain to their interests.

Q: When are the weekly meetings held?

A: Each quarter LEADR students will be asked to share their availability to meet during the week. The meeting is scheduled for the time that the majority of students can attend.

Q: Are the weekly meetings mandatory?

A: Meetings are not mandatory but it is highly advised that you attend. Many students have felt these meetings were helpful in keeping on track and staying motivated. Often students give each other valuable advice and information based upon their personal experiences with courses and/or instructors and campus resources. Also, we expect LEADR students to attend as part of the program's participation agreement.

Q: What if I cannot attend the weekly meeting?

A: Given that not all students will be able to attend the meetings because of course conflicts, we will provide alternative activities for those who fall into that category. As part of the LEADR program participation agreement, we do expect that you will attend any LEADR, college or campus workshops related to your academic and personal growth if you are unable to attend a weekly meeting.

Q: What if I do not want to participate in all of the LEADR activities?

A: It is the expectation that LEADR students will participate in all activities, unless there is a conflict with a course. However, if your LEADR Report Card shows unsatisfactory participation, your involvement in the LEADR program will be reevaluated. If you decide not to participate in the activities, your LEADR advising hold will remain regardless.

For students in Gold Level Participation, who no longer have LEADR advising holds, we still expect you to regularly check-in with an advisor in order to maximize your success as a student.

Q: Is the LEADR Student Center open to every student?

A: Yes, the LEADR Student Center is open to any student who supports diversity and inclusion. It is open Monday–Thursday from 9:00AM–8:00PM and on Fridays from 9:00AM–7:00PM.

Q: Why participate in LEADR tutoring when there is tutoring provided in the residence halls and Dutton Hall (SASC)?

A: Students report satisfaction with having a low student-to-tutor ratio versus the larger number of students who use the residential and Dutton Hall services. LEADR tutors are trained by the Student Academic Success Center (SASC) and are designated for LEADR students or students specifically referred by the college advisors. The tutors are available in the LEADR Center from 6PM–8PM on Mondays – Thursdays in Math and Physics.

Q: Why do I have to take PRE/CO courses?

A: These courses have proven (not guaranteed) to raise a student's grade as much as half a letter grade with regular attendance and engagement. In addition to the added benefit of workload units, which counts towards Minimum Progress, the PRE/CO courses count towards your study time (for every 1 hour in class plan on 2–3 hours outside of class). Also, they are great ways to connect with your study group. It is for these reasons that we expect all LEADR students to be enrolled in PRE/CO courses when offered.