

**FIU Embrace LIFE  
Faculty Mentor Agreement  
2017-2018**

**Overview**

FIU Embrace is a university-wide initiative that promotes health, wellness, and overall functioning for adults with developmental disabilities, such as autism spectrum disorder (ASD), intellectual disabilities (ID), and other neurodevelopmental disorders (OND). It seeks to help these persons lead healthy lives and maximize their individual potential across their lifespan. In partnership with the University's leadership and our External Advisory Council we envision a world in which all individuals, no matter their unique patterns of talents and abilities, are valued and meaningfully engaged in their communities.

Moreover, through education and dissemination, services, and research opportunities, we strive to positively impact the lives of individuals affected by developmental disabilities, their families, and learners.

The FIU Embrace initiative is divided into four areas:

1. Services
  - a. Comprehensive medical
  - b. Legal
  - c. Postsecondary education
2. Training/professional development
  - a. Parents
  - b. Students
  - c. Individuals affected by developmental disabilities
3. Coalition building/policy
4. Research (which is also a requirement of all of the areas listed above)

FIU Embrace LIFE in partnership with Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS), offers a postsecondary comprehensive transition program to eligible students ages 18 through 21 years with intellectual disabilities. The program is a well-planned, structured, and offers integrated educational learning opportunities, coupled with community experiences focusing on social activities, employment, and independent living.

### Responsibilities of the Faculty Mentor

- Be an active mentor and consultant for the student by serving as a resource, role model, and professional mentor.
- Offer your perspective and expertise to mentee when asked, and help mentee engage in critical thinking and problem-solving skills to come to their own solutions and conclusions.
- **Complete and submit the weekly online mentor-student meeting log each week by Friday at 5:00pm.**
- Assist student with discussing or reviewing assignments and understanding of coursework.
- **Maintain regular communication by meeting with student(s) for no less than once each week for 60 minutes.** Faculty mentors may meet additional times and/or for longer periods if your schedule permits. However, the minimum meeting requirement is one day a week for one hour, and text communication is not permitted.
- Meet with student(s) individually. Mentors cannot meet with multiple student mentees at the same time. Separate meetings must be held.
- Develop rapport and a collaborative advisory relationship with mentee.
- Treat student(s) with respect and demonstrate a genuine interest in his/her interest, academic endeavors, and future independent living goals.
- Work with student(s) to monitor their academic progress in core classes and direct them to campus resources that can help them achieve the maximum benefits of course curricula.
- Become familiar with and abide by all FIU policies, procedures, regulations, and guidelines.
- Attend the student's STAR PCP meetings.
- Address individual goals of students as listed on the STAR PCP around the five (5) transition domains of career development & employment, academic enrichment, campus & community engagement, independent living and self-determination.
- Create 1-3 measureable goals to structure mentorship with student, which also relate to overall STAR PCP goals and objectives.
- **Each week review student's progress towards measureable goals, which will be informed by short-term incremental steps and activities that these students undertake on a weekly basis to achieve overall objective.**
- If a mentee presents challenges/concerns that are beyond the scope of the academic role of the faculty mentor (such as attitudinal, attendance, or other personal problems) the mentor, must inform FIU Embrace staff and, if necessary, refer students to other institutional resources.

- Attend the faculty mentor meetings to be held each semester (fall/spring). Your attendance at the mentors' meetings and are mandatory for effective mentoring of PLUS students as valuable information (ie: changes policies, regulations, emerging issues and/or concerns) are discussed and shared.
- Attend at least two additional professional development workshops offered throughout the year.
- Provide feedback and suggestions for continuous improvement.
- Compensation/stipend of \$500 per semester per student.
- Faculty mentors must comply with all programmatic and research components of the program. This includes but is not limited to the completion of consents, goals, weekly logs and the end of the semester advisor questionnaire.

**Your signature on this document indicates your understanding and agreement to the terms outlined.**

Faculty Mentor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please circle term:      Fall Semester   /   Spring Semester                      Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Faculty Mentor Signature \_\_\_\_\_                      Date: \_\_\_\_\_

FIU Embrace Supervisor Signature: \_\_\_\_\_                      Date: \_\_\_\_\_