

MechE ENGAGE

Ensuring New Grads Achieve Graduate Excellence



PROGRAM VISION

- Equip first year students with the knowledge, skills and resources required to thrive in graduate school and beyond
- Bolster networks of support to help students navigate the ‘unknown unknowns’ of academia, and graduate research at MIT
- Provide a framework for building relationships among mentees, student peer mentors and faculty mentors



“It is a great way to connect to people from outside one’s lab and hear different perspectives on life as a graduate student at MIT”

Based on an exit survey, 100% of mentees agreed that MechE ENGAGE improved their MechE network, helped them feel more integrated within MechE, and helped them feel more prepared for graduate study



“I had a great experience in the program and have already recommended it to friends”

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

For the 2023-2024 academic year, we are piloting a new program structure. Now running for both semesters, ENGAGE will be able to reach a broader network of first-year graduate students and directly cater to their needs as they develop throughout the year.



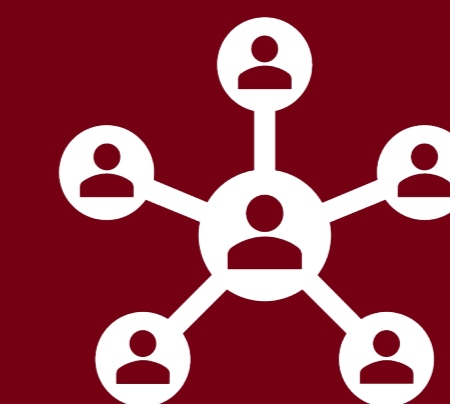
FALL SEMESTER

Consists of monthly panel events, managed by the peer mentors, targeting common concerns of first year graduate students



SPRING SEMESTER

Peer mentors, faculty mentors and mentees are arranged into "pods"



THE PODS

Each pod is comprised of two peer mentors, one faculty mentor, and 4-5 mentees. They meet weekly, following a conversation curriculum that covers a variety of topics such as qualifying exams and mental health

FALL EVENT CALENDAR

Tuesday September 26

- *Topic:* Research
- *Time:* 12:30 – 2 pm
- *Location:* Grier Room, 34-401

Thursday October 26

- *Topic:* Mental Health
- *Time:* 12:30 – 2 pm
- *Location:* 2-135

Tuesday November 14

- *Topic:* Advisor Relationships
- *Time:* 12:30 – 2 pm
- *Location:* 2-135

Thursday December 14

- *Topic:* Values and Priorities
- *Time:* 12:30 – 2 pm
- *Location:* Grier Room, 34-401



THE ROLE OF THE PEER MENTOR

Peer Mentor Responsibilities

The peer mentor is a MechE graduate student who has been in the MechE Graduate program for at least one year. They are responsible for planning and facilitating the monthly fall events, and offering 1-1 meetings with any new students. In the spring, peer mentors work with their pod's faculty mentor to facilitate weekly conversations that address common themes and concerns amongst the first-year graduate student population. They continue to meet individually with their mentees, and also work with other pods to plan program wide activities and events.



Peer Mentor Training

Each semester, peer mentors are expected to attend a 1-2 half-day training. These trainings are run by the program's leadership team and include guest presentations when applicable. The fall training focuses on familiarizing the mentors with institute resources and planning the monthly events. During the spring training we will look at the conversation curriculum and develop coaching and mentoring skills by discussing example scenarios.

Compensation: Peer mentors receive a total of \$1,200 during the year; split between fall and spring for their support. This amount and distribution is currently being reviewed to ensure alignment with the MIT and GSU-UE Collective Bargaining Agreement.

OUR TEAM



TERESA WERTH

PROGRAM SUPERVISOR
oversees the program and leads
the senior team

CONTACT

engageme@mit.edu

RIMA DAS
STUDENT LIAISON
“boots on the ground” and helps with
logistics



EMILY KIERSTEAD

PEER MENTOR SUPERVISOR
point person for the peer mentors and
works closely to support their activities

CURRENTLY VACANT

FACULTY LIAISON

point person and recruiter for faculty mentors

