



New Friends

Pairing UW-Madison undergraduate and health professional students with individuals living with Alzheimer's disease or other memory issues

Provided by:



Wisconsin Alzheimer's Institute
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

What is New Friends?

New Friends pairs UW-Madison students with individuals living with Alzheimer's disease or other memory issues (mentors) for a mutually-enriching experience. Through meetings and shared activities, pairs develop friendships while the student learns directly about the disease process and its effects on the person and their loved ones.

New Friends is a research study that will measure students' knowledge and attitudes about dementia. This year's program will be hybrid.

Who can participate?

STUDENTS:

UW-Madison undergraduate, graduate, and health professional students. This includes, but is not limited to, students from the fields of medicine, nursing, social work, occupational, physical and speech therapies and pharmacy.

MENTORS:

Mentors are individuals living with Alzheimer's disease or other memory changes. Some mentors choose to participate with a care partner, but it is not required.

STUDENT and MENTOR Responsibilities

- Attend Match Day Luncheon
- Spend 1-2 hours per month together doing activities of your own choosing, from October through April (students and mentors)
- Attend End-of-Year Luncheon
- Complete program evaluation form

Additional STUDENT Responsibilities

- **Complete a background check**
- Complete pre and post knowledge assessments
- Attend monthly educational sessions
- Complete monthly journal entry

Join New Friends!

Benefits to Students:

- Learn about Alzheimer's disease and other forms of memory loss outside of the classroom
- Meet service learning requirements
- Learn about the psychosocial and medical issues facing older adults with memory issues
- Gain confidence in communicating with older adults with memory issues and family members
- Grow professionally and build your resume

Benefits to Mentors:

- Educate future healthcare providers
- Share your experiences with dementia
- Participate in meaningful activities while making a new friend



"Even if you're not interested in geriatrics as a career, older adults will be a part of almost everyone's practice in some way, so I think it's important to understand both the medical as well as the psychosocial issues of older adults. I almost didn't do this program because I was worried about the time commitment during my first year of medical school, but I am so happy I did. It significantly enhanced my medical school experience as well as my quality of life."

-STUDENT PARTICIPANT, 2015-2016

For more information about New Friends, please contact:

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Click below to apply:

[New Friends MENTOR Application](#)

[New Friends STUDENT Application](#)

Participants are free to withdraw from New Friends at any time, for any reason.