

About Us

The Carnegie Mellon Advising Resource Center (CMARC) is an advising and information center designed to assist undergraduate students of all majors in their academic and social development from their first year through graduation. As professional advisors, we work individually with students; directing them to appropriate communities, service providers and other areas of opportunity in order to help them find their place at Carnegie Mellon and make the most of their educational experience. Our primary purpose is to build a supportive, intellectual and social community; bridging the campus's diverse cultures. We have an additional commitment to support underrepresented ethnic minority students. CMARC is a place where students' differences and talents are guided, appreciated and reinforced.

Background

CMARC was found under the name Carnegie Mellon Action Project (CMAP) in 1968. Its original purpose was to aid the university in recruiting African American students and provide them with subsequent academic and supportive services to assure their progress toward graduation. In the fall of 1991, Hispanic and Native American students became a part of CMAP's target population. In the spring of 2005, after evaluating Carnegie Mellon's advising needs and in adherence with new educational mandates, CMAP transitioned to the Carnegie Mellon Advising Resource Center (CMARC). It has refocused its advising efforts and broadened its audience without losing sight of the university's commitment to diversity.

Academic Advising

CMARC advisors, working in cooperation with faculty and departmental advisors, strive to promote academic success. Their primary objective is to assist students in developing and achieving meaningful educational plans that are compatible with their life goals. They serve as an additional resource in times when it is necessary to consult with more than one person or to obtain another perspective. CMARC advisors can help students:

- Establish short and long term academic goals
- Investigate alternative majors in other colleges
- Obtain referrals to organizations such as Career Services, Academic Development, etc.
- Explore career and graduate school options

Leadership Development

CMARC seeks to prepare students to make a long term, positive impact in their communities and workplaces. We provide a variety of experiences that educate and train students in effective leadership principles. Emphasis is placed on ethical decision making and collaboration; skills that can distinguish students in today's competitive, global job market. Service learning opportunities are also made available.

Community Building

Establishing social and academic networks amongst peers is a major tenet of student retention. Research suggests that students who become an integral part of the campus community usually persist and graduate. CMARC assists students in establishing these connections by sponsoring a variety of activities that bring students together across all classes and disciplines. This programming helps students personalize their experience and ties them into the fabric of the student culture. They also enable newcomers to acquire useful, informal networks with upper-class students.

Identification and Recruitment

CMARC supports the university's commitment to attract and enroll a diverse student population. We work in cooperation with the Office of Admission to identify talented students who wish to pursue degrees in any of the university's disciplines. CMARC assists in the recruiting process by coordinating the Summer Academy for Math and Science (SAMS), meeting with prospective students and parents, conducting information sessions and participating in campus visitation events.

ORIGINS

Recognizing the benefits of a good beginning, CMARC sponsors a two-day, off-campus pre-orientation program for African American, Hispanic and Native American first year students. It is intended to serve as a bridge for ethnic minorities as they transition from high school to college and as an opportunity for community building with others of similar backgrounds. This retreat is held a few days before the university orientation and is very unique so students will enjoy participating in both.

Summer Academy for Mathematics and Science (SAMS)

One of seven pre-college programs at Carnegie Mellon, SAMS is designed to "make good students excellent." This six week residential summer experience for juniors and seniors focuses on creating interest in technical disciplines, enhancing academic profiles and building personal competencies required for admission to competitive colleges and universities.

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