“Support from the MEP has helped me learn and enjoy all of my academic experiences; it has also helped me grow mentally and professionally. Professional development seminars, MEP workshops and networking opportunities facilitated by the Minority Engineering Program have provided me with the tools necessary for becoming successful beyond the classroom.”

Gustavo Nazario, Industrial Engineering Technology

“The support that I got from the MEP provided me with what I needed to be academically, professionally, and socially successful. Being a part of the MEP family challenged me to get involved and act as a role-model for younger engineering students who faced some of the same challenges that I did. I wouldn’t trade my MEP experience for anything, and I think it is a very beneficial program for any student transitioning from high school to college in a culture that is different than their own.”

Gerica Brown, recent Mechanical Engineering graduate

“Never have I ever encountered such support than my experience in MEP. The University of Dayton’s professors are always helpful but because I am part of MEP, I have an even greater sense of the campus and everything it has to offer. I have learned much about the field of engineering, and I have formed a great relationship with other minority engineers, which I know will help me in the future.”

Erin Larkin, Chemical Engineering
PEER-SUPPORTED EDUCATION CREATING SUCCESS THROUGH COLLABORATION

Through MEP, African American, Hispanic American and Native American students find the peer support, academic rigor and professional networking that will equip them with the skills and relationships needed for success in education and in careers as engineers.

The Minority Engineering Program (MEP) is designed to facilitate and encourage student success and includes the following components:

The Minority STEM Summer Bridge Program
This summer program offers incoming minority first-year students majoring in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM) the opportunity to get a head start on their first semester at the University of Dayton (UD). Students come to campus for a residential program during the summer to become familiar with UD, prepare for math and science courses, and build community identity. The program develops relationships between students, faculty and staff while improving academic performance. The schedule includes course primers for math, chemistry, and physics; sessions on study skills and time management; orientation to college life and campus support services; activities to build group cohesiveness; and opportunities for interaction with the wider campus community.

Academic Excellence Workshops
During the fall semester, first-year MEP students attend a series of bi-weekly workshops designed to ease the academic transition from high school to college. The MEP Director facilitates the interactive workshops and provides the students with proven techniques and resources for academic success. Upperclass MEP students assist with the workshops and provide valuable personal academic insight.

Sophomore Success Workshops
During the fall semester, sophomore MEP students attend a series of bi-weekly workshops intended to continue to promote student success in the engineering program. The workshops address the issue of the “sophomore slump” and keep students informed about the engineering profession and motivated to persist in their studies. The MEP Director and upperclass MEP students facilitate the Sophomore Success Workshops.

Professional Development Workshops
First-year students and sophomores come together bi-weekly during the spring semester for a series of workshops focusing on professional development, personal development, community building, and academic skills. The workshops feature guest speakers from industry, academia, MEP alumni, and local professional members of NSBE and SHPE.

Collaborative Learning Workshops
First-year MEP students attend study tables twice a week during their entire first year. The study tables give the students the opportunity to work on class assignments collaboratively and promote active involvement in learning. Upperclass engineering student facilitators are available to assist the students.

Clustering
All MEP students enroll in the same general sections of math, chemistry and physics courses during the first year.

Mentoring Program
First-year MEP students are paired with an upperclass MEP student mentor. Through this peer-to-peer mentoring, the students gain a valuable support system. There are two formal mentoring activities organized each year by the MEP for students and their mentors, along with many opportunities for interaction directly between the mentee and mentor.

Individual Advising
First-year students meet individually with the MEP Director twice per semester, and sophomores meet with the MEP Director once per semester. The purpose of these meetings is to review academic performance, answer questions the student may have, and help point the student to campus resources. The MEP Director has an “open door” policy and all students, including upperclass students, are encouraged to stop in or schedule meetings on a more frequent basis.

Upperclass Student Programming
The MEP provides upperclass programming for juniors and seniors to maintain the peer and academic support found in the first two years. Yearly programming is determined by the upperclass students’ needs and interests. The upperclass students are also greatly involved in the programming and activities with the freshman and sophomore MEP students.

Minority Engineering Program Scholarship
Students who actively participate in the MEP and maintain University scholarship academic standards receive a yearly $3,000 scholarship (available for four years at undergraduate level).

NSBE and SHPE
The MEP has strong ties with our student chapters and local professional chapters of the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) and Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE), and participates in several collaborative programs with these organizations.

Socials
The MEP hosts several socials throughout the academic year. The socials are a fun way for MEP students to get to know each other in an informal setting and to interact with School of Engineering faculty and staff.

Opportunities
The MEP is also a vehicle to help connect students with undergraduate research opportunities, co-operative education or summer internship placements, and additional scholarship support.