



Marshall University ● Center for Student Success

Friend at Marshall Peer Mentor Program

An overview of FAM & its impact on student success.

History of FAM



- ✱ The FAM Peer Mentor Program launched in 2019, and only served freshmen.
- ✱ It is based on Mississippi State Navigators Peer Mentoring Program.
- ✱ It was expanded to include sophomores in 2020 and transfers in 2021.



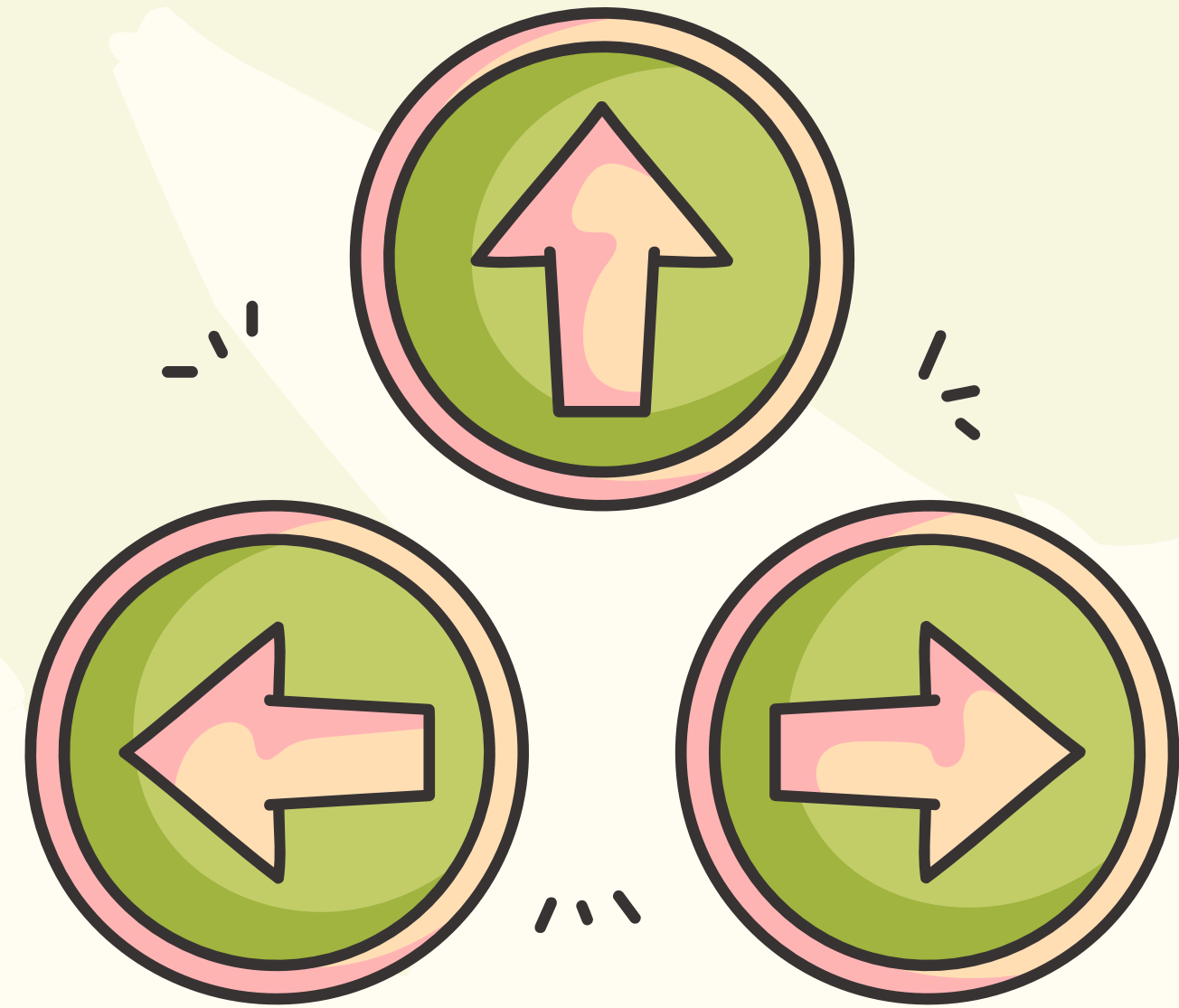
Goals of FAM



- ★ Increase retention and foster belonging.
- ★ Support transition to college.
- ★ Identify and assist struggling students.
- ★ Connect students with their major.
- ★ Link students with campus resources.

Structure

Our Operational Design
for AY 2025 - 2026



★ Mentors

- 19 Freshmen Mentors
- 15 Sophomore Mentors
- 5 Transfer/Online Mentors

★ Caseloads

- 90 - 110 Freshmen Mentors
- 100 - 130 Sophomore, Transfer & Online Mentors

★ Student Population

- 2072 Freshmen
- 1468 Sophomores
- 690 Transfer/Online

Populations



- Commuter
- First Gen student
- Homeschooled student
- International student
- Metro or non-resident student
- Military-connected student
- Minority at a PWI (primarily white institution)
- Neurodivergent student
- Non-traditional student
- Student Athlete
- Student who has been part of foster care/kinship care
- Student who is part of the LGBTQIA+ community
- Student with young children
- Student with the same major as me
- Student with a chronic illness
- Student in the Honor's College



Assignments

Other Factors in Assigning Mentors



Colleges & Majors

There is at least one mentor per college and a variety of different majors.



Programs

- Marshall for All
- Online & E-campus



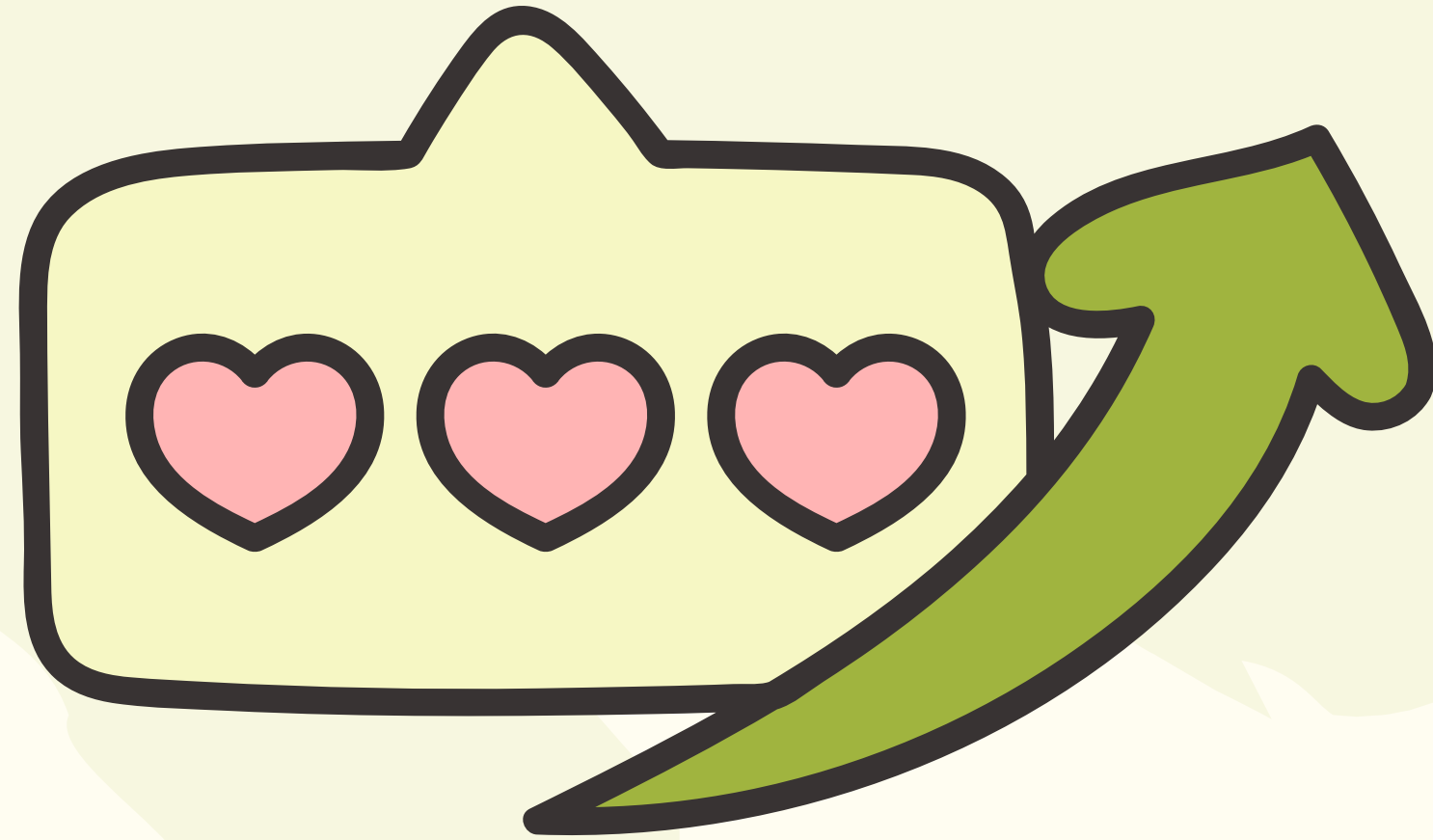
Partnerships & Grants

- First2 Network
- Foster and kinship care





Support



Pillars of Comprehensive Care

★ Academic

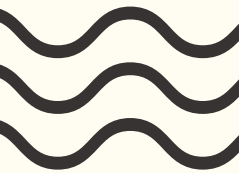
- Time management tips
- Connecting to resources
- Course Navigation
- Study sessions and tips on study habits
- Suggestions on classes or professors

★ Social

- Hosting events
- Weekly emails and texts
- Suggesting student organizations
- Creating safe spaces
- Offering to accompany mentees

★ Personal

- Listening and validating
- Referring to counseling
- Sharing coping strategies
- Doing check-ins
- Being a consistent and supportive presence



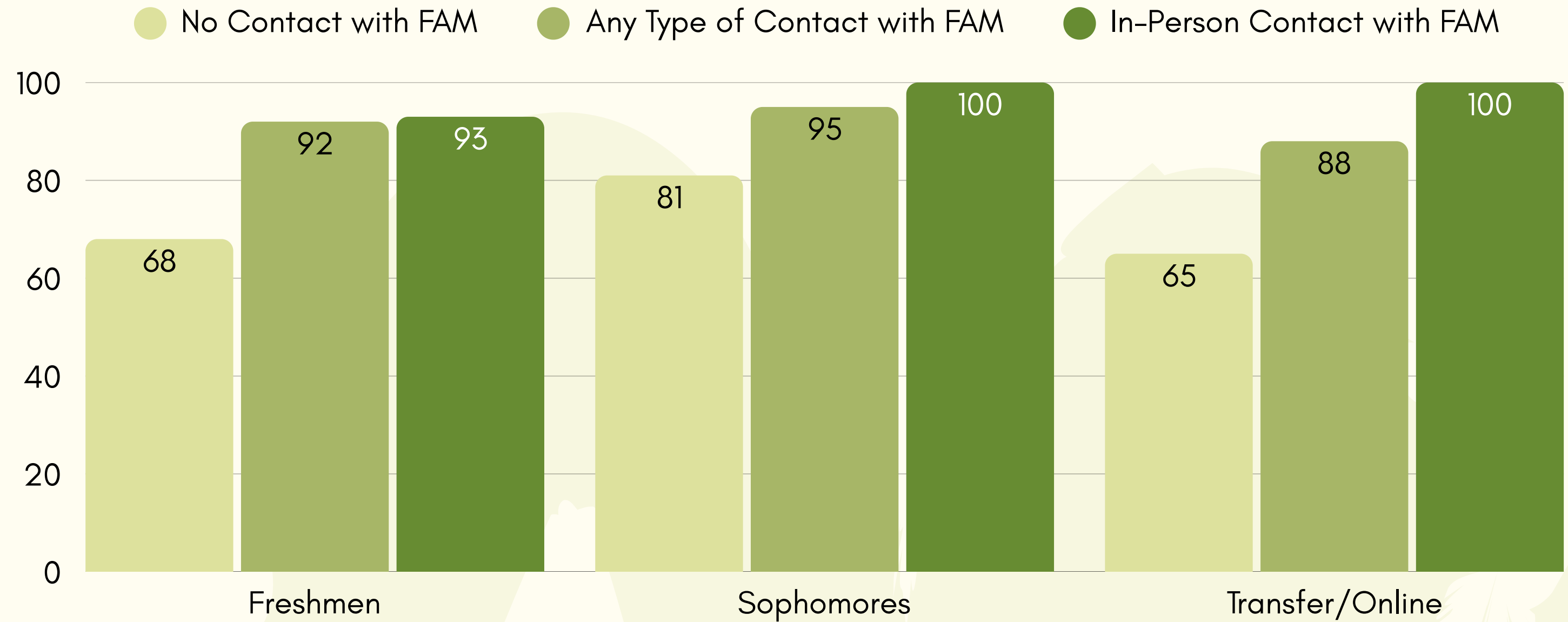
Research



- ✱ Students who leave college before completing their first academic year often decide to do so during the first six weeks of the semester.
- ✱ Students' feelings of being prepared for college increased from 8% to 50% after interacting with their peer mentor.
- ✱ 91% of students said the mentoring experience made a positive difference in their sense of belonging within the university.



FAM DATA Fall 2024 - Fall 2025





Questions & Answers

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References

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