



Associated Colleges of Illinois

Rachel Abraham
North Park University
ACI Peer Mentoring Program



Rachel Abraham finished her first year of college this spring at [North Park University](#), Chicago. Abraham, from Skokie, Illinois, chose to attend the university after speaking with a cousin who was also a North Park student. She told her that the small classes and opportunities to interact with professors were good reasons to attend. Abraham is the second in her family to attend college.

"I knew I wanted to be in a medical field," Abraham said, but she wasn't certain what profession to choose. After trying pharmacy classes and others, she eventually decided on a nursing major, one of the school's top majors. Abraham hopes to work as a pediatrics or obstetrics nurse, she says.

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After attending the university's Compass program for first-year students, Abraham said she gained confidence, learning about the university and the college environment. She also became a mentee in ACI's Peer Mentoring Program at North Park.

"I had a really good connection with my mentor who graduated in December," she said.

"We still have a good connection, we reach out to each other outside of school."

Abraham says her mentor helped connect her with resources and people, and helped her resolve an issue in one of her classes. "I asked for her opinion. I didn't really know what to do and how should I take on this problem," she says. "First, she told me to calm down because I was a little overwhelmed. She's said 'go see your advisor. Tell her I sent you. Tell her the issue, and she'll give you a response.' She did, and it all worked out. It was really good."

Looking back on her first year, Abraham says the Peer Mentoring Program gave her "balance." "There's always going to be a teacher and a counselor and advisor. When you have a mentor, they have all the information for you, especially if you can relate with your major. It's a really good connection to make," she says. In addition, as a commuter, Abraham says the Compass program and the Peer Mentoring Program helped her to meet and know people at school, something she might not have done otherwise.

Abraham adds that she is grateful for donors who contribute to the Peer Mentoring Program because the support "can have a really big impact."