

Tyrique Thomas
Concordia University Chicago
Peer Mentoring Program



Tyrique Thomas joined ACI's [Peer Mentoring Program](#) at [Concordia University Chicago](#) as a freshman mentee. Now in his sophomore year, Thomas will mentor new students. "I want to extend the same helping hand I received my first year," he says. "I know how it is being a first-year student, especially if you're first-generation. It's helpful to have someone there who cares and knows what is going on. I want to be that for another student."

Thomas, the youngest of four children, is a first-generation college student from Chicago. He's focused on a double major of business and sociology, with a career

goal of working in a community-based nonprofit organization, much like the nonprofit organizations that helped him while growing up - the YMCA and Link Unlimited, a scholarship organization for African American students. "I want to work in a place where I'm managing community resources, somewhere where I can gain experience with a nonprofit organization. I would love to work in a neighborhood similar to the one where I grew up," Thomas says. He says he chose Concordia to run track as a sprinter and hurdler. He was part of a record-setting 4 x 100 relay team his first year and thinks often about being part of a future Olympic team.

Thomas had a helpful peer mentor his first year in college, someone who encouraged him. "My mentor checked in with me," Thomas says. "He was always looking out for me. It was like having a big brother on campus." This year, Thomas is a residential assistant at Concordia, works at athletic events and participates in intramural sports. He is an all-conference athlete and has earned academic all-conference honors.