

## Frequently Asked Questions!

Please take some time to read a little bit about us.

### What is Passport?

A great resource that the Office of Diversity & Inclusion offers is the Passport First Year Exploration Program. Passport is a program within the ALANA Student Network established in 2016 through the Office of Diversity and Inclusion. This introductory program provides academic support, peer-to-peer guidance, cultural and leadership development for first-year students who identify as African, Latino/a, Asian, and Native American.

First year students are referred to as Proteges because, by definition, they are "a person who is guided and supported by an older and more experienced or influential person." This person is a returning student that we refer to as a Diversity Ambassador. Proteges will be paired with a Diversity Ambassador at the end of the Pre-Arrival Experience

### What are some major components of the Passport program?

**Pre-Arrival:** Passport kicks off a few days before orientation with the Pre-Arrival Experience. During this time, new students will participate in a more intimate and small-scale orientation process through the lens of diversity and inclusion at New England College. Students will get to know each other and other members of the NEC community all while becoming familiar with the resources available to them.

**Success Seminars** are bi-weekly meetings with the entire cohort of Diversity Ambassadors and Proteges.

This is a pre-scheduled time to discuss any matters that are pertinent to each cohort. Topics range from time management, writing emails, and how to balance life away from home.

Success Seminars are often co-facilitated by Diversity Ambassadors with the support of ODI staff.

**ALANA Study Hours:** ODI reserves space in the library for students to attend mandatory study hours. This is the time for ODI staff and Diversity Ambassadors to check in on the academics of our Proteges. A major component of the Passport Program is academic account ability. ODI staff monitors class attendance and grades of all members of the cohort.

**Peer-to-Peer** guidance is something we rely heavily upon as the Office of Diversity & Inclusion because our Diversity Ambassadors live on campus alongside our Proteges and the ODI staff does not. Proteges and Diversity Ambassadors are expected to have a formal check in *at least* twice a month, after which the Diversity Ambassador will update ODI staff of any pertinent information on.

**Social Outings** are a reward for working hard. This is a free benefit to being affiliated with the Passport Program. We try to get off campus at least once a month to do a various activity ranging from laser tag, to movies, and even going out to eat. Social outings are a privilege; therefore, Proteges are expected to participate fully in the components of the program before they can sign up for an outing.

### Who are Diversity Ambassadors?

What was formerly the Passport Advisor is now titled *Diversity Ambassador*. This new title was decided on because we feel that it more accurately describes what our peer-to-peer mentoring program provides not only our new students in the program (Proteges) but also the professional and personal growth the student leadership position affords our returning students.