

What does it mean to be a Peer Health Educator?

Peer Health Educators are dynamic students who are ready to make a significant contribution to SUNY Oswego. A Peer Health Educator believes in their ability to stimulate personal growth in others as well as themselves and they recognize this talent as vital for a healthier student community. Peer Health Educators participate in the creation and delivery of positive health messaging on campus.

Some important things that you should know:

- **Peer Education is an academic class**
Through GST 350, students are eligible for 3 credit hours/semester their first two semesters.
- **You are required to participate in about 8-9 hours/week (120 total) of class-related activities. Here is how it works:**
 - **Training**
You will be required to return to school about a week early to participate in a training session. In training you will learn core skills, team building and many fun activities. This training counts toward the required amount of hours.
 - **Class**
You will be required to attend class for over the course of the semester. Being in class and actively participating is crucial. Class meets on Wednesdays from 3-5pm.
 - **Field Work Hours**
Through participation in a task assignment (Outreach, Programming, etc.), volunteer work and continuing education (presenting, going to presentations, etc.) throughout the semester, you will compile a specific number of required hours individually assigned to meet your needs and interests. This is approximately three hours (3) per week.
 - **Outreach**
Outreach (red wagon) is reaching out to students who are in their own environments such as academic buildings, residence halls, Marano Campus Center, or outside. The weekly outreach topic mirrors what was learned in class the previous week.

Expectations

Peer Educators are expected to act as a positive role model for the program and SUNY Oswego at all times. While understanding that all students are human, there is an expectation that Peer Health Educators are an administrative extension of the college and are encouraged to maintain a positive and healthy pattern of behavior while enrolled in the program. In all cases, the instructor(s) reserve the right to lower a grade or dismiss a student from the program based upon a Peer Educator's performance inside and outside of the

classroom experience. There is a GPA requirement that all Peer Educators must meet which is approximately a 2.5.

We will also check with the Office of the Dean of Students/Conduct to see that each student is in good standing. *“Good standing” includes a requirement that all matters pending before the Office of Student Conduct have been fully and finally resolved (including, but not limited to, full satisfaction of any sanctions imposed). Students who are not in good standing are not eligible to participate in certain leadership opportunities.*

Commitment

We ask that Peer Health Educators make a two-semester commitment when possible.

As a first semester Peer Educator, it may be overwhelming to pledge or be a first semester RA and perform all of the requirements asked of you.

What’s in it for you?

- Earn academic credit
- Gain leadership experience that will make you more marketable
- Opportunities to attend regional/national conferences
- National certification as a Peer Educator (opportunity each fall)
- Great community service opportunities
- Have fun...
- Meet new people...
- Make a difference...
- Broaden your horizons.