

George Washington University Peer Educator Program

Mission and Vision

The George Washington University Peer Educator Program is focused on health, wellness and primary prevention of interpersonal violence.

Peer Educators are team oriented leaders, and model positive behavior. This group will support others in cultivating their health and wellness.

Role of a Peer Educator

The George Washington University's Peer Educator Program is sponsored by the Colonial Health Center in collaboration with The Title IX Office and The Center for Career Services.

GW Peer Educators will work with department staff to provide prevention education to the GW community. They will do this through workshops, education campaigns, and outreach activities. The two areas covered by the Peer Education program will be:

- Wellness Advocates: Personal Health and Wellbeing
 - Mental Health
 - Substance Use
 - Healthy Lifestyle Choices
 - Physical Health
- Haven Peer Educators: Sexual Assault and Relationship Abuse
 - Sexual Health
 - Intimate Partner Violence
 - Gender Based Discrimination or Violence
 - Stalking
 - Crisis Intervention

Peer Educator responsibilities will include:

- Complete training and a minimum of two semesters involvement post training
- Commit to at least one two hour weekly service hour block. This may include:
 - Office Hours
 - 1:1 or small group education sessions
 - Monitoring 'Ask Haven' e-mail queue
- Workshop facilitation
- Peer to Peer education
- Representing GW Peer Educator program in the university community
- Modeling desired behaviors for peers
- Timely and clear communication with GW staff
- Commitment to program and assigned responsibilities

- Team oriented behavior
- Openness to learning, growing, and working with students of diverse backgrounds

Lead Peer Ed responsibilities will include all Peer Educator responsibilities, plus:

- Recruitment of new Peer Educators
- Assisting with initial interviews for Peer Educator applicants
- Supporting GW staff during Peer Educator training and onboarding
- Helping to facilitate weekly meetings and ongoing trainings
- Attend and evaluate sessions led by other peer educators

Application Process and Requirements

The Peer Educator Program application will be open from the first day of the fall semester through October 15th. Up to 30 students per year will be accepted.

In order to become a GW Peer Educator, students must apply to the program, and successfully complete the training program to be held during the Spring semester. Upon completion of training, students will have an exit interview with program staff and must receive a positive evaluation before being approved to join the Peer Educator Program.

Following a successful exit interview, Peer Educators will choose to focus on one or both program tracks. Peer Educators will then serve for a term of two semesters with an option to apply to return as a Lead Peer Ed.

Application Process

- Apply to the Peer Educator Program by the stated deadline
- Complete interview process as outlined in the following section
- Successfully complete training during the Spring term
- Complete exit interview following training

Interview Process

- Complete initial interview. Candidates will be notified of the time and location for this following application submission.
- Following successful completion of training, candidates will be scheduled for an exit interview.

Requirements

- No current academic probation
- Disclosure of judicial history. This will not prevent students from being accepted to the Peer Educator program.

Training & Onboarding

All GW Peer Educators will be required to successfully complete a training program. This is designed to help students develop the skills necessary to become peer educators. In addition to health education strategy, students will learn about: mental health, substance use, and physical health, sexual assault, healthy relationships, relationship abuse, trauma.

Following completion of training students will complete an exit interview, and if successful, will be offered a spot in the GW Peer Educator program. At this time students will select a track.

Once onboarding has been completed, Peer Educators will attend weekly meetings with their GW staff leader. This time will be used for continuing education, and updates. In addition, there will be a monthly in service session.