

2017-2018 Learning Community Peer Mentor Position Description

Saint Louis University

General Description

The Learning Communities Program at Saint Louis University seeks to create intentional, inclusive communities formed around common academic programs where students live and learn together. Engaging the Jesuit tradition of truth-seeking and reflection, Learning Communities invite students to integrate their learning in and out of class. These communities cultivate holistic student growth and enhance learning by fostering collaborative and enduring connections among students, faculty, and staff.

The Learning Community Peer Mentor (LC Peer Mentor) works collaboratively with the learning community residence hall staff to provide students with an awareness of on-campus resources, connections with faculty and staff on campus, and opportunities to serve their local and global communities. In their role, LC Peer Mentors work one on one with students to foster a sense of commitment to academics, service, and their individual learning community. As a live-in student leader, LC Peer Mentors serve as a positive role model and peer educator for learning community students.

As a result of the collaborative nature of the Learning Community program, LC Peer Mentors are expected to work in partnership with many offices and stakeholders on campus, including but not limited to: Housing and Residence Life, the Student Success Center, the Center for Service and Community Engagement, and the Student Involvement Center. The leadership position is overseen directly by the Learning Community Coordinator but also by the Residence Hall Coordinator in the LC Peer Mentor's residential area of campus.

Responsibilities and Expectations

As an important leadership role within the Learning Community Program, the main objective of the Learning Community Peer Mentor (LC Peer Mentor) leadership position is to develop and maintain meaningful mentoring relationships with students in his or her individual learning community. In addition, LC Peer Mentors play a key role in the connection of learning community students to academic and service opportunities within their residential communities and the overall Saint Louis University community. In collaboration with the Resident Advisors (RAs) and Residence Hall Coordinators (RHCs) for their area, the LC Peer Mentor helps to create a residential community with a focus on learning and holistic student development. The LC Peer Mentor is expected to support the work of the Residence Hall staff regarding enforcement of policy, community building initiatives, and implementation of the residential curriculum when needed. The following expectations and responsibilities have been set forth for the Learning Community Peer Mentor position:

Peer Mentor

- Become familiar with learning community students and their individual and collective academic needs
- Facilitate study groups, tutoring sessions, and other academic initiatives for the community
- Assist students with their transition to the learning community and to Saint Louis University
- Help prepare students for the academic components of the college environment
- Motivate students to succeed academically and personally
- Act as an academic role model for students in the learning community
- Help create and maintain an atmosphere conducive to study within the learning community
- Direct students to the appropriate academic resources when needed (e.g. Academic Services)
- Communicate with faculty to implement academic initiatives and engage faculty in the Learning Community

Administrative Tasks and Time Commitment

- Attend all mandatory training sessions. This includes Spring training dates and early arrival for August training dates. Failure to be present for or attend any portion of Fall (August) training may result in loss of the leadership position
- Attend stakeholder meetings (often monthly) with faculty, staff, and student leaders
- Attend biweekly Learning Community Peer Mentor Meetings and regularly scheduled one on one meetings
- Communicate regularly with the Learning Community Coordinator in the Student Involvement Center regarding learning community initiatives, concerns, and direction
- Be present and have an active role during move-in, Fall Welcome, and the LC Orientation
- Assist with positive promotion of the Learning Community to current students, incoming students, prospective students, and faculty and staff
- Coordinate periodic academic and study initiatives for the community, including but not limited to study sessions, study breaks or guided study groups
- Assist in the coordination and implementation of regular service and reflection for the Learning Community

Collaboration with Housing and Residence Life

- Work as a Learning Community team by maintaining regular communication with the Learning Community Resident Advisors (RAs) and Residence Hall Coordinators (RHCs)
- Meet at least monthly with the Residence Hall Coordinator for the appropriate building or floor
- Support Housing and Residence Life staff in the implementation of the residential curriculum for the Learning Community, assisting when needed or requested
- Subscribe to all policies and procedures set forth by Housing and Residence Life, the Housing Handbook, and the Code of Student Conduct and support Housing and Residence Life in the enforcement of all policies
- Make referrals to the Residence Hall Coordinator regarding any individual or incident which needs prompt attention
- Maintain confidentiality as appropriate
- Assist the RA in facilitation of community development through personal interactions with learning community students and participation in learning community educational initiatives
- Assist hall staff in fostering a commitment to community service, social justice, and diverse perspectives in the learning community environment

Academic Requirements

- Maintain at least a 2.5 GPA (cumulative and semester) and remain in good and full-time standing at Saint Louis University

Other Expectations and Requirements

- Learning Community Peer Mentor applicants should have lived in a Saint Louis University Learning Community for at least one full semester before the start of the position
- If selected, LC Peer Mentors will be required to sign a Residential Housing Contract for a full academic year
- Uphold and abide by all Housing and Residence Life, University, federal, state and local regulations and policies
- Demonstrate the willingness to complete other reasonable tasks requested by the supervisor and other Learning Community professional staff
- Serve as a role model of positive behavior, representing the University with pride and respect. This includes how you represent yourself online through profiles, comments, and pictures on Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, GroupMe, and other websites/social media outlets

Position Benefits

As a critical leadership position in the Learning Community program, there are a number of personal and leadership benefits to serving as a Learning Community Peer Mentor. Learning Community Peer Mentors will:

- Have the opportunity to have a lasting effect on the success of first year and sophomore students at Saint Louis University
- Further their leadership skills and ability to work in a team-focused environment
- Build their resume
- Connect and build meaningful mentoring relationships with faculty and staff on campus
- Learn more about campus resources
- Gain a further appreciation for diversity, service, and social justice
- Engage in critical communication and team work skills
- Develop a commitment to Saint Louis University and the Learning Community Program

Appreciation of Service

- \$225 per semester in a book scholarship (deposited to the student's SLU student account)
- \$225 per semester in the form of a housing scholarship (deposited to the student's SLU student account)
- Ability to move-in early in the Fall
- Selection of room in the Learning Community and option to request a preferred roommate, if desired and applicable