

## PEER LEADER FAQ SHEET

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### **WHAT IS THE PEER LEADER PROGRAM?**

The Peer Leader program provides new students enrolled in a section of GNED 101 Freshman Seminar with a student *mentor* to assist in their transition to CSU. Each Peer Leader is assigned to work with a section of GNED 101. The Peer Leader is expected to talk individually with each student in his/her section at least once during the semester to gauge the student's comfort level and overall satisfaction regarding the transition process. Peer Leaders will provide general support and assistance to the students in their assigned GNED 101 section through a variety of avenues, including class projects and social event. Peer Leaders will attend meetings and training sessions scheduled to help them with their job responsibilities.

### **WHAT DOES A PEER LEADER "DO"**

- Each Peer Leader will be assigned to a section of GNED 101 Freshmen Seminar. Peer Leaders are required to attend each class session once a week with their section.
- Peer Leaders will assist their Freshmen Seminar instructor with weekly activities, assignments and participate in the class.
- Peer Leaders will serve the students in their section as a general resource, an advocate, and as a cultural translator-- explaining how CSU works.
- Each Peer Leader is expected to meet with the students in his/her section outside of class time at least one hour each week for an activity agreed upon by the class (for example, as a group, attend a sporting event; have a study group before mid-terms or finals; attend a concert; have a party or other social event on campus; participate in Habitat for Humanity, etc.) The idea is to get the students within each section and across sections to relate to one another outside of class.
- Every Peer Leader must meet with each student in his/her section individually once during the semester and report any problems back to the class professor.

### **WHAT DOES A PEER LEADER RECEIVE?**

- Compensation of *up to* \$250 is paid as Institutional Work Study for students who participate in the program over the entire semester.
- An opportunity to develop leadership and group facilitation skills.
- Networking opportunities with faculty and staff.
- Excellent resume experience.
- Ability to shape new students' transition experiences.

### **WHAT ARE THE REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS?**

Peer Leaders must have completed at least 15 credits at Charleston Southern University as of their first semester of service in the Peer Leaders Program.

- Peer Leaders must carry a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or better throughout their participation in the Peer Leader program.
- Peer Leaders must maintain good academic and disciplinary standing.
- Applicants should demonstrate good oral and written communication skills.

- Applicants must be prepared to provide at least one reference from a CSU faculty member, CSU staff member or an employer.
- Peer Leaders must be registered as full-time students at CSU during their time of their service in the program.

### **WHAT QUALITIES MAKE FOR AN IDEAL PEER LEADER?**

*Someone who is:*

- A good role model and an active and involved student – both inside and outside the classroom
- Be comfortable leading group discussions & working closely with a Freshmen Seminar instructor
- Have strong interpersonal communication skills
- Professional, confident and articulate
- Out-going & friendly.

### **HOW DOES A STUDENT APPLY TO BE A PEER LEADER?**

Complete the on-line application—Go to CSU Homepage at [www.csuniv.edu](http://www.csuniv.edu)

- From “Quick Links” Go to the **Student Success Center** webpage
- Click on and complete “**Peer Leader Application.**”

**A Federal W-4 form and a Federal I-9 form must accompany your completed Peer Leader Application. To download these forms, go to:**

<http://www.csuniv.edu/careerplanning/workstudyprogram.asp>.

**Please submit your completed application package to Annie Watson in the Student Success Center on the first floor of the Strom Thurmond Building.**

### **WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?**

The Student Success Center will contact the applicant with additional instructions regarding the interview process, assignment to a Freshman Seminar section, and any scheduled meetings or training sessions.