

PEER ASSISTANT APPLICATION PACKET



APPLICATION DUE: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26th 2021-2022 Selection Process

Tuesday, February 23	PA Open House 5-6:30pm in GustieWELL Office
Friday, February 26	Applications/Reference Letters DUE by 4pm
Friday, March 5	Notification for Group Interviews
Tuesday, March 16th	REQUIRED Group Activity Interviews (tentatively 6-8pm)
Wednesday, March 17	Notification for Individual Interviews with PAs
March 18 - 21	Individual Interviews with Peer Assistants
Monday, March 22	Notification for Individual Interview with Laura Herbst-Johnson
March 23-24	Individual Interviews with PA Advisor, GustieWELL Director (Laura)
Friday, March 26	Final Selection Notification
Wednesday, March 31	Signed Contracts Due to GustieWELL Office by 3pm

Gustavus Adolphus College

Peer Assistant Program

The **PEER ASSISTANTS** are an elite group of trained, Certified Peer Educators who volunteer their time to promote holistic health and wellness through educational outreach activities. Our purpose is to create a campus environment in which students are informed and empowered to make choices that contribute to their personal and community well-being.

The **PAs** support the GustieWELL Office in their efforts to equip students with health-related knowledge by providing educational programs, awareness campaigns, social activities, and assisting students in accessing resources on topics such as stress management, chemical health, mental health, nutrition and fitness, sexual health, financial well-being, and more.

The **MISSION** of the Peer Assistants is to create change concerning lifestyle and chemical health issues by acting as friends, educators, activists, role models, and team members.

The Peer Assistants act as:

Friends - by being available to listen to other peoples' stories and act as a bridge to campus resources.

Educators - by teaching decision-making skills and strategies to stay safe, along with dispelling myths and misperceptions using the latest health information.

Activists - by creating partnerships and networks, challenging unhealthy attitudes and behaviors, and refusing to be passive bystanders.

Role Models - by leading lives that are healthy and balanced.

Team Members - by being supportive and encouraging of other Peer Assistants and collaborating partner organization members.

Responsibilities & Expectations:

- Actively participate in pre-semester PA training requirements, beginning Sunday, August 30, 2021 and lasting through Monday, September 7, 2022.
- Attend weekly Peer Assistant meetings (date/time TBD).
- Attend one office hour (between 8am-4:45pm) per week.
- Maintain availability, visibility, and accessibility for PA events and commitments.
- Actively communicate with the director and other PAs in a clear and supportive manner.
- Demonstrate consistent trust, reliability, time management skills and good energy.
- Prepare and deliver high-quality educational programming on campus, in classes and res halls.
- Become knowledgeable about wellbeing, health behaviors, and health promotion resources to appropriately refer students.
- Assist in the development, implementation, and evaluation of well-being and health promotion campaigns.
- Ability to respect and maintain the privacy/confidentiality of others.
- Actively work to be aware of issues on campus and respond to them.
- Time Commitment: ability to devote a minimum of four hours per week to PA activities.

Qualifications:

- Desire to provide students with the information and support needed to achieve/manage personal wellness.
- Ability to lead a committee and delegate tasks in an effective manner.
- Self-motivated and punctual.
- Ability to organize and present materials.
- Ability to serve as a positive role model on campus, both academically and personally.
- Ability to support and model Gustavus policies.

Behavioral Expectations:

- Remain in good standing with the college (free of academic and disciplinary probation).
- Maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5.
- Serve as an influential role model for others, both academically and personally.
- Support the goals, objectives, and philosophy of the PA program and the educational mission of the College.
- Present an open and accepting attitude for all lifestyles and choices; treat everyone with respect.

Federal Law Responsibilities:

Campus Security Authority/Mandated Reporter: Due to your role as a Peer Assistant, you would be considered a “Campus Security Authority/Mandated Reporter” for the College. Gustavus Adolphus has a responsibility to notify the campus community about any crimes which pose an ongoing threat to the community, and as campus security authorities you will be obligated by law to report crimes to the Title IX Coordinator/Dean of Students and/or the Campus Safety Department.

GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS COLLEGE

PEER ASSISTANT APPLICATION

2021-2022 Academic Year

Name _____

E-mail _____

Date of birth _____ I.D. # _____

Permanent Address _____
Street City State Zip

Cell Phone _____ 2021-22 Year in School _____

Major _____ Current G.P.A. _____

List any training/involvement (workshops, academic courses, organizations or work experiences) that are relevant to the mission of this program. *Previous trainings/experience are not required.

1. _____

1. _____

1. _____

List any organizations/extracurricular activities you are currently involved in, both on and off campus. *Involvement in other organizations/extracurricular activities are not required.

Organization Anticipated hours per/week

How would PAs “fit” into the commitments listed above? Please be specific about your priorities.

PLEASE TYPE YOUR ANSWERS TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS ON A SEPARATE SHEET AND ATTACH. (Questions 1-5)

1. What motivated you to apply to become a Peer Assistant?
2. What are your expectations of the PA experiences? What would be most rewarding, most challenging?
3. What needs do you see on campus that the Peer Assistants should make as priorities next year and why?
4. Can you describe a situation in which you learned an important lesson in leadership?
5. What do you consider to be your personal strengths and areas for improvement?

Personal References: Please use the attached reference sheets and ask for a reference from each of the following:

Faculty/Staff (may be non-Gustavus personnel) _____

Faculty/Staff/Coach/Student _____

Due to the role PAs play in orientation, PAs cannot accept Collegiate Fellow, Gustie Greeters, CAB, or I Am. We Are/E Pluribus Gustavus cast positions for the 2021-2022 academic year. You are however, welcome to go through the application process for more than one group. In addition, PAs cannot be Dining Service supervisors due to training conflicts.

Before submitting your application, please read the following carefully and sign and date your application:

Because the Peer Assistant position is one of the premiere leadership opportunities on campus, PAs cannot be on academic probation during their contract term (April 2021-May 2022). PAs must have and maintain a minimum 2.5 cumulative GPA.

Also, PAs cannot have been in the past or be on (during their contract term of April 2021-May 2022) disciplinary probation. In addition, less significant conduct sanctions (below probation) and disciplinary actions could still result in ineligibility for retaining a PA position.

I hereby authorize the GustieWELL Office to check my eligibility status starting with this application process and continuing through the length of the PA contract.

Signature and date

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Friday, February 26, 2021
RETURN TO: GustieWELL Office, PO Box B-3 or
Laura Herbst-Johnson, Director at lherbstj@gustavus.edu

Peer Assistant Applicant Reference

Name of applicant: _____

Name of reference: _____

Reference email: _____

How well do you know the applicant? • Slightly • Fairly well • Very well

Under what circumstances and for how long have you known the applicant?

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The **PAs** support the GustieWELL Office in their efforts to equip students with health-related knowledge by providing educational programs, awareness campaigns, social activities, and assist students in accessing resources on a range of topics: stress management, mental health, nutrition and fitness, sexual health, chemical health, healthy relationships, and more.

Programming examples include: Count on Gusties Bystander Program for first years, FTS presentations, Residential Life workshops, Saturday Night in Lund (SNL), Drinko Plinko, Safer Sex Carnival, Food and Fitness Expo, Condom Bingo, and Midnight Express study break.

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Activists - by creating partnerships and networks, challenging unhealthy attitudes and behaviors, and refusing to be passive bystanders.

Role Models - by leading lives that are healthy and balanced.

Team Members - by being supportive and encouraging of other Peer Assistants and collaborating partner organization members.

Instructions: Please respond to the following as honestly as possible and return this form directly to the GustieWELL Office or email to lherbstj@gustavus.edu by Friday, February 26. If you have any questions about the role of the Peer Assistants on campus or concerns about completing this form, please contact Laura Herbst-Johnson, x7169.

Relates easily to other people, showing sensitivity to the feelings and needs of others.

Outstanding Above Average Average Poor Inadequate Unknown

Is emotionally stable and mature, approaching problem-solving with patience and good judgment.

Outstanding Above Average Average Poor Inadequate Unknown

Manages own life successfully, so that opinions and judgment elicit respect and confidence from other students.

Outstanding Above Average Average Poor Inadequate Unknown

Is conscientious and responsible in fulfilling obligations and completing tasks.

Outstanding Above Average Average Poor Inadequate Unknown

Demonstrates leadership ability, yet works cooperatively and constructively in group situations.

Outstanding Above Average Average Poor Inadequate Unknown

Has achieved academically to an extent that he/she can function with additional responsibility.

Outstanding Above Average Average Poor Inadequate Unknown

What experiences, perspectives or passions might this applicant bring to the PAs?

What do you consider the applicant's most outstanding characteristic?

Please provide any additional comments that might be helpful in our selection process.

Overall, I recommend this candidate:

• Highly • With confidence • Without conviction • With reservation • Cannot recommend

Signature

Date

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