University Counseling Center

Peer Education Program:

*Information Packet*

Thank you for your interest in becoming a member of the 2023/2024 Peer Education team!

This packet includes a brief description of the Peer Education Program, including job requirements, stipend information, and how to apply. Please read all materials carefully and follow the instructions below. Completed applications may be submitted one of the following ways:

E mail:

Please send your completed application to Peer Education Program coordinators Melissa Selby-Theut (selbym@gvsu.edu) and Alex Houseknecht (housekna@gvsu.edu)

OR

University Counseling Center:

You may print and drop off your application at the University Counseling Center, located in 206 STU.

Applications are due Monday, March 13th. Applications must be received by 5:00pm for consideration. Applicants will be notified regarding their status by March 17th. Interviews will be conducted March 29th and April 5th.

University Counseling Center

Peer Education Program:

*Job Description*

*Peer Education at the University Counseling Center at Grand Valley*

The Peer Education Program is comprised of highly trained students who serve representatives of and liaisons to the University Counseling Center. Peer educators develop and lead University Counseling Center initiatives while cultivating skills transferrable to the professional workforce. Those skills include, among others:

\* Facilitating discussions with large groups

\* Creating presentations that meet the needs of a target audience

\* Collaborating with students, staff, faculty, and campus organizations

\* Using technology/social media to engage persons of diverse backgrounds

\* Responsibly representing a professional entity

Overall, on behalf of the University Counseling Center, peer educators aim to:

\* Increase awareness of/access to the University Counseling Center

\* Improve the well-being of the campus community through outreach and social justice initiatives

\* Destigmatize the use of mental health services so that students feel empowered to seek resources and/or treatment

***Job Requirements***

Our vision is to establish a staff of peer educators who are diverse, enthusiastic, and passionate about positively impacting student mental health. We hope to attract applicants from a variety of academic disciplines and with a variety of life experiences so that each might offer unique history, perspective, and strength to the larger team. We are looking for peer educators who are professional, eager to learn, open to feedback, and motivated to serve others on behalf of the University Counseling Center.

In addition to those qualities noted above, Peer Education Program applicants must be enrolled during the 2023/2024 academic year and:

\* Have and maintain a **2.5 gpa**

\* Work well **alone** and as a **member of a team**

\* Be willing and able to devote **between 3 and 5 hours per week** to Peer Education

\* Make a **one year commitment** to serve as a peer educator (FALL 2023 and WINTER 2024)

***Job Description***

In addition to undergoing training relevant to their work in the University Counseling Center, peer educators:

\* Attend weekly team meetings

\* Represent the University Counseling Center at campus-wide events, including mental health screening days, Laker Experience Days, etc.

\* Facilitate the *Unnatural Causes* documentary series

\* Provide psychoeducational outreach to historically underserved student groups

\* Record the *I’m Doing Fine* University Counseling Center mental health podcast

\* Participate in University Counseling Center social media campaigns

\* Engage in professional development related to the University Counseling Center’s mission/services

\* Other duties as assigned

Applicants MUST be available throughout the 2023/2024 academic year at the following times in order to participate in the Peer Education Program:

\* Wednesday afternoons, 3:00pm – 5:00pm

\* Thursday evenings, 5:00 – 7:00pm

*Compensation*

We hope that all of our peer educators leave the program with transferrable skills and a positive experience that serves them long after they have graduated from Grand Valley!

For their contributions to the University Counseling Center and its mission, peer educators receive a $410 stipend at the end of each semester. Students who do not contribute the estimated 40 +/- hours expected or who otherwise do not fulfill their obligations as a peer educator do not receive a stipend and may be relieved of their role as a peer educator.

***An Additional Note Regarding Peer Education***

Peer Education offers students from a variety of academic disciplines the opportunity to work alongside a diverse team of talented professionals, including psychologists, social workers, nurse practitioners, graduate trainees, faculty members, and University administrators – just to name a few! If you are interested in growing as a professional, learning new skills, and positively impacting student mental health on campus, then peer education is right for you. Apply today!

University Counseling Center

Peer Education Program:

*Application*

**Personal/Contact Information**

Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ G Number:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number/s:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**Educational Background**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| School/Major: |  | GPA: |  |

**CURRENT** Status (22/23 year): 1st year  2nd year  3rd year  4th year  Other

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| --- | --- |
| Expected Date of Graduation: |  |

Post-Graduation Plans: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

High Schools, Universities or Colleges attended:

Name Dates Major Degree Conferred

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**Work and Volunteer History**

Employer Job Title/Description Dates of Employment

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List participation in any student organizations, national organizations, extracurricular activities, or athletics:

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University Counseling Center

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*Application*

**Please respond to the following questions completely and concisely. Incomplete applications will not be considered.**

1. Why do you want to be a peer educator? In what ways can this position help you achieve your personal and professional goals?

2. What issue/s are you most passionate about addressing as a peer educator? Why?

3. Briefly describe any previous experience/s (academic, volunteer, personal, work-related, etc.) that might have prepared you to serve as a peer educator.

4. What strengths and skills to you possess that would contribute to your success in this leadership position?

5. We ask peer educators to commit to approximately 5 hours per week. What other

extracurricular and work responsibilities will you have next academic year and how will you manage these commitments while also serving as a peer educator?