Information for Applicants

College Counseling Center
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www.potsdam.edu/studentlife/counseling/wellnessadvocates
Welcome...

On behalf of all of us in the Counseling Center here at SUNY Potsdam, we would like to thank you for considering being a part of our team in the unique role as a Peer Counselor (PC). The PC program began in 2004 in an effort to provide more mental health resources to students. In the last 10+ years the program has changed continuously. PCs field over 50 calls each semester from students needing assistance.

If you are interested in more details, we encourage you to thoughtfully review the information in this packet and carefully examine if this will be the right fit for you. If selected, you will truly help us shape the format and focus of this leadership role on campus, which we hope you find to be as exciting an opportunity as we do. If at any time you have questions or concerns, contact us. We all look forward to seeing your application.

Sincerely,

Gena Nelson, Director of Counseling
Peer Counselor Supervisor

Josh Brown, Administrative Director of Counseling
Peer Counselor Administrator

Katie Gadbaw, Counselor
Peer Counselor Trainer
Position Overview

Peer Counselors (PCs) serve as paraprofessional interns of the College Counseling Center Staff. PCs work cooperatively with the campus to respond to mental health emergencies, promote student safety and personal wellness, promote appreciation and celebration of diversity, and encourage positive decision-making for both on- and off-campus students.

PCs are a trained group of students who raise awareness, provide education, and are a resource to other students on a wide variety of health issues including: stress management, social skills, depression, anxiety, healthy relationships, safe sexual relationships, alcohol, drugs, eating/weight concerns and risk of suicide.

Job Expectations

- Be on-call to speak with students who may be struggling with personal concerns. One PC is on-call 4:30 PM—8:00 AM ~ 7-10 days per semester. PCs are likely to be called 2-3 times per weekly shift.

- Participate in bi-weekly staff meetings, on-call assignments and programs.

- Work closely with the CCC and other campus resources to help connect students with available services.

- Serve as a positive peer role model and a representative of the CCC staff both on- and off-campus.

- Participate in bi-annual staff selection processes.

- Work in conjunction with the Active Minds organization on campus to promote awareness and assistance of mental health concerns to students.

- Unpredictable hours are sometimes required due to the nature of the position.
Applications and Training

The application & selection process takes several weeks to complete. It requires a written application, a group interview, and 1 – 1 interview with the selection team. Look for a current application on-line in the middle of each semester.

Training consists of a weekly class held on Friday afternoons and occurs through the entire semester. No materials are required for purchase. Only students who have been accepted through the application process are invited to the training semester.

On-call responsibilities begin the following semester for those students who advance through training and are accepted as Peer Counselors. Not all students who get a passing grade in the training class are invited to move forward.

Job Qualifications

- Remain a registered student at SUNY Potsdam in good academic standing, with a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher.
- Have a minimum of 12 credits completed.
- Be in good judicial standing.
- Possess strong leadership skills, conflict mediation skills, listening skills and positive decision-making skills.
- Be able to design and facilitate student programs and activities.
- Possess the social skills to interact positively and objectively with students, faculty, and staff.

Compensation

- Two (2) upper division internship credits for the training semester.
- Two (2) upper division internship credits for each semester you are with the group.
- Training in counseling, crisis management, leadership and human relations skills.
- Internship experience for your graduate school resume.
- Unique undergraduate experience in counseling.
- Invaluable life experience!!