

## **FAQs**

### **How do I get help from a peer tutor?**

The peer tutoring schedule and subject list are emailed to students, faculty, and staff at the beginning of each semester. Also, schedules are posted on campus and at the Center for Student Success. You may also check with your learning specialist or the Peer Tutoring staff at the Center for Student Success. Peer tutors are available by appointment and for drop-in help. To reduce wait time, you are encouraged to make an appointment. Peer tutors also work in the Math Lab and Media Lab.

### **What subjects are available for peer tutoring?**

Many subjects are available. Traditionally difficult subjects such as math, science, History of U.S. Government, English and psychology courses are popular for tutoring. Also, we offer tutoring in CIS, humanities, Critical Thinking and many other subjects; just ask! Courses are added based on student request and tutor availability.

### **What are the benefits of attending peer tutoring?**

Peer tutors have taken the class and have been where you are. They are familiar with the professor and the material and they know how to help you in a relaxed, academic setting. Peer tutors give practical encouragement and support, which can increase students' social and academic confidence. Also, peer tutors can help you develop academic goals and study skills. It is also a great way to make new friends across year groups and majors!

### **What are the benefits for the tutor?**

Peer tutors develop leadership and communication skills, which are valued by employers and look great on a resume. They also reinforce their subject area knowledge and gain recognition for their skills and experience. Peer tutors share that they enjoy the sense of fulfillment and personal

growth in helping their peers. Tutors receive a graduated paid stipend based on time served and fulfilling training requirements.

### **What does a peer tutor do?**

Peer tutors assist first-year students in their transition from high school to college, transfer students who are new to Beacon College, or other students who are struggling or simply would like additional support. The role of the peer tutor at Beacon College includes being a role model of a successful student, a coach for academic skills, a tutor for course content, and a resource for campus information. Many peer tutors also work in classrooms with professors as teaching assistants (TAs).

### **What are the benefits of attending Study Groups?**

Study groups are facilitated by peer tutors/TAs and a learning specialist in the Center for Student Success. Study groups tackle challenging readings and review material in a fun and interactive way with visuals, games, and activities. Students report that they enjoy attending study groups and see a big difference in their understanding of concepts, which leads to earning higher grades.

### **How do I become a peer tutor?**

Peer tutors are nominated by faculty for their subjects. They must have at least an A or B in the subject, a desire to help, and an overall GPA of 3.0 or higher. If you have done well in a class and would like to be nominated, talk with your professor as a first step. You may also get more information from the Center for Student Success or complete an [application](#) for consideration.

### **What is the time commitment for serving as a peer tutor?**

Peer tutors work at least four hours per week and must also commit to an hour per week of training for two semesters. Some tutors work more hours. It depends on the tutor's academic schedule, availability, and other commitments.

### **How are the tutors trained?**

The tutors complete a yearlong training program meeting once per week. Tutors tell us that training is extremely helpful and builds their confidence and knowledge. The training also provides a forum for problem solving and sharing real life tutoring scenarios.

### **What do the tutors learn in training?**

The curriculum is based on current requirements by the College Reading and Learning Association (CRLA). Topics include the role of the tutor, ethics, questioning and listening skills, study skills, brain based learning, learning styles, positive reinforcement, and much more.

### **What do professors say about peer tutoring?**

The program has been valued by professors who notice the benefit of peer tutoring inside and outside the classroom. According to Dr. Caroline Le, Assistant Professor of English, "I am deeply grateful for the wonderful Peer Tutors who have been such an outstanding support system for my students. The Peer Tutors bolster my students' understanding in ways I cannot hope to in the classroom, since students are at times apprehensive to tell me they don't know something. With their Peer Tutors, this barrier is immediately broken down, and there has been marked improvement in subject comprehension in those students who utilize the program. It is most heartening when a student comes into class and tells me, "My Peer Tutor explained it to me this way, and I get it now!"

### **How can I get more information?**

Stop by the Center for Student Success on campus or contact Michele Patestides, [mpatestides@beaconcollege.edu](mailto:mpatestides@beaconcollege.edu) or Braden Walter, [bwalter@beaconcollege.edu](mailto:bwalter@beaconcollege.edu). We look forward to assisting you!