Peer Intern

Overview
Being a Peer Intern is the first step toward becoming a Peer Advisor in Commonwealth Honors College (CHC). Peer Interns learn the ins and outs of the College by taking a practicum course, Honors 298A, which includes classroom instruction, attending weekly training meetings, and volunteering in the office for 3 hours per week. This course prepares students to apply for a position as a CHC Peer Advisor or Program/Event Coordinator. Additionally, it can be a great first step toward becoming a Peer Mentor in a First Year Experience Hall or other leadership positions on campus.

Honors 298A Course Description
Through self-exploration, group discussions, information sharing, and experiential learning, you will be trained to become Peer Advisors for Commonwealth Honors College (CHC). The responsibilities of a CHC Peer Advisor include informal academic support with course selection and registration, sharing information and resources in support of the greater CHC community, and providing a student perspective to the overall advising services offered by CHC. This course will cover topics including the history of college advising, the impact of peer advising, diversity and social justice, communication skills, group dynamics, and ethics and strategies for good advising practice.

Peer Interns can expect to:

- obtain an understanding of the impact and importance of peer advising
- gain sufficient knowledge of University and CHC policies and procedures to be able to assist first- and second-year honors students
- improve necessary communication skills (interpersonal communication, writing, group discussion skills, and presentation skills) to prepare for work as peer advisors
- develop an awareness of forms of discrimination, stereotyping, and prejudice as it affects the work of peer advising

Registration for Honors 298A
Typically, honors students in good academic standing are invited to apply to the course at the end of the Fall semester, and accepted students are then registered for the
course in the Spring. For more information about applying for the Peer Advising Practicum course, email Commonwealth Honors College at info@honors.umass.edu.

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