

All students may one day face a course or project that will test the limits of their thinking and learning abilities. Peer Tutors are especially helpful in these situations, not only because they're faced and succeeded in exactly the same circumstances, but more importantly because they know how one should approach stiff academic challenges. A peer tutor's training prepares him or her to understand how students think and how to best guide a student through difficult times - whether a student needs help with learning skills like note-taking or exam preparation, support in creating new ways of understanding material or aid in developing skills and practices required for a course of study. Helping students understand their academic situation in order to make sound decisions is the ultimate assistance that a peer tutor can provide.





Students who would like more information about Peer Tutoring should contact:

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# Office of Retention





## Office of Retention . . . . Peer Tutoring Program

Introduction

As an adjunct to classroom instruction and in concert with other systemic retention and academic intervention strategies, peer tutoring provides a learning structure where both the tutor and the tutee improve their content skills, learn effective communication skills and develop strategies that sustain them through future academic endeavors. The individualization of instruction, typical to most peer tutoring situations, allows both tutor and tutee to focus on difficult concepts or specific skills requiring improvement, to enjoy constant attention,

O O0explanation and demonstration and to benefit from corrective feedback. The one to one ratio most often practiced in peer tutoring situations allows the pace and level of instruction to adjust to the tutee's individual learning needs, which is particularly beneficial to college freshmen as they make the oftentimes dif-

#### Why Peer tutoring works

- Students have more opportunities to respond to academic material.
- Students receive feedback and error correction immediately and more frequently. In large group or teacher-directed settings, it is impossible to provide feedback and error correction to every student for every response. With peer tutoring, students receive feedback and correction immediately for every response.
- Students are engaged in active learning, not passive learning. When using peer tutoring, students are actively asking each other questions, responding with answers, correcting mistakes, and providing positive feedback, as opposed to simply watching and listening to the teacher (passive learning). Active learning has been shown to be more effective in promoting student achievement. Many students tend to learn more and experience more engagement: and "on-task" behavior when instruction is at a brisk pace. Peer tutoring allows for a . faster pace as students are more frequently responding to academic material than in a large-group setting.
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ficult social adjustment and academic.

#### What to expect in a tutor session:

- Sessions are very interactive, and tutors will lead you in doing your own work.
- Tutors will help you to become an independent, confident learner.
- Tutors will help you structure your work, and can help you discover your learning style.
- Tutors can help you with your study skills.

### What NOT to expect in a tutor session:

- Tutors will not do your work for you, write, edit, or proofread your papers, or give you answers without asking you guestions.
- Tutors will not re-teach the course material. You must attend class, do the assigned reading, and take notes to receive tutoring.
- Tutors will not be available only for study sessions before exams. You are expected to meet with your tutor every week.
- You will respect your tutor's time (they are students, too!), and contact him or her ahead of time if you need to

"To recruit, to retain, to gradu-