

## GETTYSBURG COLLEGE PEER LEARNING PROGRAM

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

#### **What is the Peer Learning Program?**

The Peer Learning Program enhances the educational opportunities that Gettysburg College provides its students, while fostering mentoring relationships between faculty and their Peer Learning Associates (PLAs) and between students at different stages of their academic careers.

#### **What is a PLA?**

The acronym PLA stands for Peer Learning Associate. Peer Learning Associates are students who work closely with faculty to promote peer learning in a variety of ways, including facilitating discussions or group projects in or outside class, running planned review or practice sessions or supplemental labs, and helping students through group or one-on-one tutoring. PLA's are paid an hourly wage (currently \$7.15/ hour) for their work.

#### **How does the program work?**

Simply put, the student in need of instructional assistance—assistance beyond that offered during class and office hours—gets in touch with the PLA of his or her choice and makes an appointment to meet at a mutually convenient time and location. A semester list of all available PLAs can be found on the Peer Learning Center's website.

#### **Will the Peer Learning Program cost me anything?**

No. Assistance from the Peer Learning Program is free.

#### **Is there any limit to the amount of help I can get from a one-on-one tutor?**

Within reason, there is no set limit.

#### **Will my use of the program appear on my academic record?**

No. And PLAs are sworn to respect confidentiality.

#### **Must my professor know that I've sought help from a PLA?**

No, but most professors are inclined to look favorably on those who seek extra help; they will be notified about the sessions unless you choose otherwise.

#### **How long do I have to work with a Peer Learning Associate?**

You decide when and how long to meet with a PLA. The number of times you meet with a PLA depends on the amount and level of assistance you need.

**Is peer learning assistance available before exams?**

Absolutely. Both one-on-one and group sessions are available.

**How do I ensure the availability of a PLA during peak times?**

By making appointments with PLAs *prior* to peak times.

**Does the PLA help with homework assignments?**

Yes, though the PLA only **assists** students in doing their work. PLAs do not do homework for students.

**Is the Peer Learning Program available to me after my first year?**

Yes. You can avail yourself of our services at any time during your stay at Gettysburg.

**How do I become a PLA?**

First, contact your professor and express an interest. PLAs are chosen by professors and department chairs in the late spring of each academic year, based on need and the availability of funds. New PLAs are added during the year when needed. Your professor must submit your name to the Peer Learning Coordinator in order for your name to be posted on a semester list.

**Is there someone I can meet with to get more information?**

Yes. The Peer Learning Center is located in 110 Breidenbaugh Hall, first floor, across from the Writing Center. Staff hours are posted on the door and on the center's website. You may also email the program director, Dustin Beall Smith: [dsmith@gettysburg.edu](mailto:dsmith@gettysburg.edu)