

SPARK Peer Mentor

THE IMPORTANCE OF STUDENT LEADERS AT KNOX

Student leaders play a vital role in shaping the Knox College experience. While our leadership opportunities are diverse, each has the common goal of enhancing campus life, complementing the academic experience, and upholding the College's values of critical thinking, inclusivity, respect and support. Student leaders are able to affect change on campus through mentoring, advocacy, peer education and program development. They experience the fulfillment of service as well as the added benefit of marketable skills such as communication, conflict resolution, and time management.

In our support of first-year SPARK students, peer mentors collaborate with faculty and staff during both the SPARK summer bridge program and throughout the academic year. SPARK peer mentors dialogue, train, and are supported by SPARK faculty and staff. As peer advocates and coaches for our incoming SPARK students, mentors work with students as they attain the learning goals of the SPARK bridge program.

Responsibilities:

Prior to SPARK bridge

- Spring term prior to starting employment (new leaders only): Successfully complete IDIS 130: Introduction to Leadership course (.5 credit). This course assumes that every individual has leadership potential and can develop their leadership abilities through mastery of theoretical concepts, collaborative work, and thoughtful reflection. This interdisciplinary course--drawing from the fields of psychology, sociology, education, and communication--is designed to equip students with the knowledge and skills necessary to create a vision and organize others to address human and community needs.
- Summer prior to starting employment: Participate in discussion and complete readings in SPARK mentor Google Classroom

During SPARK bridge

- Participate in three day on-campus training in September with SPARK staff and faculty advisers.
- Welcome SPARK students and assist with move-in.
- Participate in SPARK activities as indicated on SPARK schedule.
- Offer Peer Mentor Office Hours during designated times; work with students on written assignments, math homework, and group presentation preparations.
- Attend co-curricular SPARK activities as indicated on the final schedule.
- Develop a peer mentor dining schedule in order to share meals with SPARK students.
- Regularly check in with SPARK students during the bridge program.

During fall, winter, spring terms (15 hours per term)

- Meet with SPARK faculty advisers & staff.
- Co-facilitate 2 group advising sessions per term with SPARK faculty

advisers.

- Communicate with SPARK students regularly (face-to-face, email, text, SM, etc.).
- Consult with SPARK faculty and staff with updates and concerns.
- Participate in ongoing training sessions as scheduled (usually two training sessions per term).
- Check in with SPARK students and share resources and strategies on topics including, but not limited to, adjusting to Knox and Galesburg, succeeding in the classroom, engaging with and accessing campus and community activities and resources.

Qualifications:

- Maintain good academic and social standing at Knox College for the entire academic year.
- Demonstrate math proficiency (“B” or better in Math 151 or higher preferred, but applications from other qualified applicants will also be considered).
- Demonstrate excellent written skills via application essay.
- Commit to serve as a SPARK mentor for the entire academic year.
- Participate in training, both prior to SPARK and throughout the academic year (training topics include: Title IX, diversity and inclusion, developmental advising, student development theory, campus resources and referrals, and a thorough knowledge of campus policies and procedures).
- Ability to facilitate discussions and work with a diverse student body.
- Collaborate proactively with SPARK instructors, faculty and staff.
- A desire to cultivate leadership potential and a strong commitment to the goals of the SPARK summer bridge program.
- A strong interest and desire to help other students make a positive academic, personal, and social transition to Knox College.
- Demonstrate professional and ethical standards of conduct, including all Knox College regulations and FERPA; comply with a signed confidentiality agreement.
- A strong commitment to the goals, missions, and values of Knox College. Each Peer Mentor must abide by professional and ethical standards of conduct, including all Knox College policies.

Compensation:

- Meals during mentor training prior to the start of the academic year.
- Early access to your assigned residence hall.
- \$250 honorarium.
- Hourly compensation for 15 hours of work per term will be adjusted to reflect minimum wage increases as appropriate.