



Peer Learning Facilitator Position Overview

What are Peer Learning Facilitators?

Peer Learning Facilitators (PLFs) help students succeed in challenging courses by providing subject-matter support and guidance to strengthen critical college skills. Based on course structure and instructional needs, PLFs are assigned to one of three roles: Supplemental Instruction (SI) Leader, Embedded Tutor, or Embedded SI Leader. All roles are designed to promote student success through collaborative learning and strategic academic support.

Supplemental Instruction (SI)— The internationally accredited CSUSB Supplemental Instruction program offers peer-led academic support designed to improve student success in historically challenging courses. SI Leaders facilitate regularly scheduled, small-group study sessions outside of class, focusing on core course concepts, strategic learning techniques, and discipline-specific study skills. This model is especially effective in lecture-heavy courses with limited in-class active learning, offering students a collaborative environment in which to deepen their understanding and improve performance.

Embedded Tutoring— Embedded Tutors are placed directly within selected courses to work alongside instructors, offering immediate, course-specific academic support. Unlike traditional tutoring, which occurs outside of class, this model integrates assistance into the learning environment to promote deeper engagement, clearer understanding of course material, and the development of effective academic strategies. Embedded tutoring is best suited for courses in which at least 30% of each class meeting involves active learning (collaborative work, applied problem-solving, or other interactive formats).

Embedded Supplemental Instruction (SI)— Embedded SI integrates the evidence-based SI model with in-class academic support. In this hybrid approach, SI Leaders assist with active learning activities in class and also host course-aligned, outside study sessions. Embedded SI is ideal for courses in which some portion of weekly instructional time is dedicated to active learning, supporting both real-time engagement and extended learning beyond the classroom. Embedded SI is not recommended for courses with 30% or more of class time dedicated to active learning as the SI sessions may be redundant.

What do Peer Learning Facilitators do?

PLFs help guide learning by answering questions, providing study tools, and taking the lead in collaborative learning around challenging course concepts—either in or out of class.

Depending on their specific role (SI Leaders, Embedded Tutors, and Embedded SI Leaders), PLFs assist students in:

- Reviewing lecture notes and text material
- Discussing and applying important concepts
- Preparing for an upcoming quiz or exam
- Asking and answering questions
- Learning effective study and test taking techniques
- Discovering strategies for doing well in the course

Who can serve as a Peer Learning Facilitator?

Qualifications:

- Enrolled CSUSB student in good standing with a GPA of at least 3.0
- Relevant coursework in the specific content area and/or relevant advanced coursework
- CSUSB faculty recommendation/referral
- Appropriate day/time availability related to supported course lecture and outside support sessions
- Able to work a minimum of 7 hours per week (16-week commitment)
- Successful experience as a small group or active learning academic support facilitator is preferred

What are the characteristics of highly a qualified Peer Learning Facilitator?

- Active understanding of concepts covered in the supported course
- Strong interpersonal communication skills
- Ability to establish and maintain rapport with students and faculty
- Effective personal study habits demonstrated by overall academic success
- Exemplary work ethic with experience in independent preparation, task, and time management
- Ability to identify, design, and employ effective small group learning strategies relevant to course material

What are the responsibilities associated with the position?

Responsibilities for all Peer Learning Facilitators include:

- Attend the mandatory PLF pre-semester training
- Attend content course lectures for corresponding sections of the course
- Submit Weekly Academic Support Review
- Meet regularly and work collaboratively with course instructor, PLP Coordinator, and Senior Leader
- Participate in professional development sessions held throughout the semester
- Collect data for program evaluation

SI and Embedded SI Leader responsibilities also include:

- Prepare written sessions plans
- Conduct SI sessions twice each week as assigned
- Conduct Peer Observations

Embedded Tutor responsibilities also include:

- Work with course instructor to facilitate instructor-designed active learning during lecture
- Support student learning and academic development one-on-one or in small groups during lecture and, at times, outside of lecture (office hours, tutoring appointments, exam prep sessions, etc.)

I am interested in this position. How can I learn more?

Contact the Peer Learning Programs office to learn more or to apply.

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