CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

2022 Summer GSI Peer Support Team

The Center for Innovations in Teaching and Learning (CITL) invites applications to the 2022 Summer GSI Peer Support Team, a group of approximately 6-7 graduate students invested in equity-minded and accessible pedagogy and in strengthening their own peer mentoring practices, and who provide a support network to Graduate Student Instructors (GSIs) teaching Summer courses. While faculty members remain the primary supervisors of Summer GSIs, the Peer Support Team provides an additional resource through a peer-centered teaching and learning community model.

About the Program

The Summer GSI Peer Support Team is integrated into CITL’s Course Design & Delivery Graduate Certificate Program, which will begin in Spring 2022 with approximately 30 Summer GSI participants. In tandem with this program, the Peer Support Team provides ongoing, individualized support during the Spring when GSIs are refining their course materials and throughout the Summer when GSIs are teaching their courses. Each member of the Peer Support Team supports a designated sub-group of 5-6 GSIs in related fields of study.

The Peer Support Team coheres as a community, coordinated and mentored by CITL staff, and engages in concurrent professional development in effective peer mentoring practices.

Peer Support Team Commitments Summary

- Participate in 5-6 peer support preparation meetings in Spring 2022.
- Attend the 5 virtual (Zoom) sessions of the Course Design & Delivery certificate program in Spring 2022, every other Friday at 10am-12pm Pacific Time on the following schedule: April 8, April 22, May 6, May 20, June 3. Attendance includes supporting the facilitation of breakout room discussions and activities.
- Provide feedback on the course materials of their assigned group of 5-6 Summer GSIs during the certificate program.
- Coordinate and facilitate at least 2 check-in meetings with each of their assigned Summer GSIs during the Summer Sessions (or equivalent, e.g. a non-evaluative peer teaching observation that includes a pre- and post-observation discussion). This can be done on an individual basis (one-on-one) or with the full assigned GSI group.
- Provide teaching resources, support, and encouragement to their group of Summer GSIs.
- Keep track of consultations with GSIs to communicate with CITL about participation.
- Attend approximately 2-3 preparation meetings with CITL staff in Summer 2022 as scheduled.
- Maintain strong, consistent communication with CITL staff, including individual goals and needs.

Peer Support Fellowships

Each Peer Support Team member will receive a fellowship of $2,500, to be disbursed in two installments ($2,000 in Spring and $500 in Summer). This fellowship is based on an estimated maximum 65 peer support hours spread throughout Spring and Summer, including certificate program session breakout room facilitation, individual consultation meetings and teaching observations for GSIs, CITL peer support preparation meetings, and time to review course materials, offer feedback, and collect and share resources. The majority of these hours will be served in Spring.
Fellowship payments can be received on top of university employment, such as TA, GSI, or GSR positions. The fellowship disbursement will be coordinated by the Financial Aid & Scholarship Office in compliance with University policy. If you are a financial aid recipient, there are some cases in which the award could reduce loan indebtedness in order to stay within the total cost of attendance. If that is the case, the Financial Aid Office would work with you to see if any adjustments to your cost of attendance need to be made before disbursing the award, with the goal of ensuring that each Peer Support Team member can receive the full benefit of participating.

**Application & Selection Process**

To apply to participate in the Summer GSI Peer Support Team, please submit the following materials to citl@ucsc.edu by 9:00am Pacific Time on Wednesday, March 2.

- A 1- to 2-page statement of interest that includes:
  - Why you’d like to support Summer GSIs with their teaching goals;
  - Your strengths, values, and/or commitments as an educator;
  - A brief discussion of your teaching experience, including whether you have taught as a GSI at UC Santa Cruz or if you have other instructor of record experience;
  - Your peer mentorship experience, whether formal or informal;
  - Your experience with pedagogical professional development (such as programs and workshops at CITL), and how that experience can guide your role on the Peer Support Team; and
  - Your availability in Spring and Summer 2022. (Summer Session dates are available at the Summer Session website. The Spring meetings and workshops will be virtual to promote increased accessibility; the Summer meetings can be virtual or in-person or blended, depending on the team’s needs.)

- An up-to-date CV highlighting relevant information about your teaching and professional development.

CITL will notify applicants of their acceptance during the week of March 14, if not before. We aim to have a cohort of 6-7 Peer Support Team members with representation across the academic divisions. The following priorities will inform our selections:

- We aim to build a Peer Support Team that is well-matched to the disciplinary backgrounds of the GSIs who sign up to participate in the Course Design & Delivery certificate program.
- We will prioritize applicants who have participated in CITL’s professional pedagogical development (preference for Graduate Pedagogy Fellows and the Course Design certificate, due to the ways these programs prepare participants for providing the unique support required for the course design process).
- The Course Design program for GSIs seeks to uplift equity-minded and accessible pedagogies; strong applicants to the Peer Support Team will demonstrate their commitments to advancing educational equity.
- We prefer applicants who have instructor of record experience, especially as GSIs on our campus. That said, if you haven’t been a GSI but have other valuable teaching experience, especially in remote/online environments, we still encourage you to apply.
- We encourage applications from those who have not yet served in this position at CITL, as well as those who have.