

Faculty Mentors in the Diamond Peer Teacher Program

PROGRAM: The Diamond Peer Teacher (DPT) Program is one of several university programs fostering student academic development. The DPT Program provides outstanding Temple undergraduates with a mentored college-level teaching experience enabling them to gain a deeper understanding of both their field of study and the teaching role of a university professor. Based upon the Supplemental Instruction (SI) model, the core of the program consists of the weekly group study sessions held by the peer teacher. The expected outcomes of the program are that the peer teacher will be better prepared for work as a graduate teaching assistant and enhance her/his group-processing and interaction skills whilst mastering course material and interacting with a department and its faculty. Because such outcomes will enhance the peer teacher's candidacy for admission into graduate or professional school, the program is designed for those students who have a future interest in graduate study and especially for those thinking of becoming a university professor.

ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF FACULTY MENTORS: Recognizing the diversity of disciplines across the university, the specific activities of each peer teacher and the study sessions will vary slightly. However, the program expects that all faculty mentors understand that peer teaching is not a student assistantship or a student job but a university funded opportunity for professional academic development. Accordingly, faculty mentors are responsible for the following:

- Peer Teachers will register for a 1-credit course with the mentor, complete a midterm and final reflective report, and earn a grade for the semester.
- Mentors should share with peer teachers how to be a professor and involve them in course planning, instruction and evaluation, although **peer teachers may NOT do any grading.**
- Meet weekly to discuss the course and the peer teacher's experience.
- Ensure the peer teacher is an integral part of your course:
 - Include both of your contact information on your syllabus.
 - Introduce your peer teacher on the first day of class.
 - Continue to encourage students to attend the peer teacher's study sessions.
- Supervise any in-class instructional opportunity for the peer teacher and provide feedback.

ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF SVPUS:

- Provide pre-semester Peer Teaching Institute training and orientation for all new peer teachers
- Administer all aspects of DPT program including application review and selection, payment of stipends, and coordinating DPT Internship course section creation and student registration
- Organize Peer Teacher group meetings during the semester for additional support

STIPEND: At the end of the semester, all faculty mentors in the Diamond Peer Teacher program will receive a \$500 stipend. Peer Teachers are paid via biweekly payroll a total of \$2,250 for the semester.

RECOMMENDATIONS: The DPT is highly competitive, and the most useful letters of recommendation supporting a peer teacher applicant are those that specifically address the following: the value of the proposed experience for both the enrolled students in your course and for the peer teacher applicant, how you and the peer teacher will work together in the course, and the extent to which the applicant is prepared for the role.