

Peer Educators: Coaches for Deeper Learning

Who are Peer Educators?

- Undergraduate students who are trained in learning and teaching **approaches that improve academic success for their peers**. These Peer Educators have completed the courses for which they are providing support to other students.
- Peer Educators serve as tutors, supplemental instruction leaders, learning assistants, and academic success workshop leaders to **extend and enrich your student's learning**.



Why Use Peer Educators at Colorado State?

- Because **research demonstrates** that peer education deepens and **adds to student's learning experiences**.
- We emphasize three crucial activities that help students *learn how to learn!*
- With the additional help of Peer Educators, they spend time learning to:
 - **Engage** more actively with course material;
 - **Discuss** problems, questions, and concept with peers in dialogues that challenge students to support their idea or proposed solution;
 - **Explain** how they solve a problem, interpret a source, and develop their position on a topic or issue.
- These activities all promote life-long learning. That learning applies to a particular course. It also teaches students learning skills they can transport to other courses and their future career. They develop knowledge and skills in approaches crucial to effective learning.

How does it work?

- Peer Educators coordinate with faculty to help students meet learning goals.
- They use critical thinking questions to prompt effective small-group work *during class time and in group study sessions outside class time*.
- They organize *community-building activities that promote learning*, like small-group learning events in which students are asked to pause the instructor's video-recorded lecture at key points so the group together can discuss and analyze challenging concepts.
- They lead study sessions using key principles of collaborative learning. These teaching-learning principles **support stronger problem solving, thinking, and study skills**.



The Take-Aways:

- Peer Educators improve education.
- CSU has been incorporating Peer Education for decades and is now expanding Peer Educator programs to support more students.
- Studies show that students in courses supported by Peer Educators gain deeper learning and better grades, preparing them to succeed in subsequent courses.
- **Students who work with Peer Educators become better positioned as life-long learners who can construct, retain, transfer, and apply their knowledge to succeed in college, career, and life.**

Selected Relevant Research

- [Colver, M., & Fry, T. \(2016\)](#)
- [Cooper, E. \(2010\)](#)
- [Finkelstein, N., Otero, V., & Pollock, S. \(2007\)](#)
- [Sellami, N., Shaked, S., Laski, F.A., Eagan, K.M., & Sanders, E.R. \(2017\)](#)
- [White, J-S.S., Van Dusen, B., & Roualdes, E.A. \(2016\)](#)