



Edgewood Commons Apartments
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*Fostering Strong
Partnerships
at
Frostburg State
University*



Residence Life Office
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Frostburg, Maryland 21532
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Residential Peer Mentor Application

The First Year Experience program in Residence Life and Edgewood Commons emphasizes the importance of first year students being connected to the University and being engaged in a meaningful and intentional manner as they make the transition from high school to college. First year students arrive at college anticipating certain challenges such as leaving friends and family, gaining a greater degree of social independence, and learning to effectively deal with time management. Despite their preparation, they may also face a number of unanticipated social or academic challenges. The student may quickly realize the strategies that were successful in high school may no longer apply.

Residential Peer Mentors (RPMs) add a new dimension to our First Year Experience (FYE) programs. RPMs will be selected during an application and interview process during Spring 2008. RPMs will serve an important role as mentors to new students who participate in the FYE program. Mentors who are selected will have already established themselves as campus leaders in various areas ranging from academic excellence, community service, or in a student organization leadership position.

Residential Peer Mentors will be expected to form meaningful relationships and actively work with first year students in order to effectively assist in this pivotal transition.

In order to participate as a Residential Peer Mentor, you must maintain a cumulative 3.0 GPA, have no judicial record, and demonstrate a desire to aid in the creation and execution of a year long peer mentoring program.

Applications must be submitted to the Residence Life Office or Edgewood Commons by April 11th along with one letter of recommendation from a faculty or staff member. Interviews will be held between April 21st and 25th; candidates will receive notification of acceptance by June 1, 2008

Residential Peer Mentor Application

Residential Peer Mentors will be trained in the following areas:

- Assisting the University in fulfilling its mission and goals for first year students
- Training in communication, facilitation, and leadership skills within group dynamics
- Developing and planning a successful learning environment for first year students
- Establishing meaningful relationships with first year students
- Developing transferable skills to future career goals and plans

Residential Peer Mentor's expectations and requirements include the following:

- Actively mentor a selected group of first year students
- Assist students in the transition from high school to college
- Serve as an advocate for the interests and needs for first year students
- Serve as a mentor for academic, co-curricular, and leadership involvement
- Assist in the planning of programs for targeted transition areas
- Facilitate academic skills study sessions
- Being responsible for contact with any first year students who receive mid-semester warnings
- Being responsible for having continual contact with your first year students
- Serve as a liaison for student feedback to the Residence Life Office and Edgewood Commons staff
- Assist in evaluation of the program
- Participate in training prior to the start of each semester, and at various times throughout the semester

Qualifications to become a Residential Peer Mentor are:

- Cumulative 3.0 GPA
- No previous student conduct record
- Some campus involvement and leadership
- Demonstrate a desire to aid in the creation and executions of a year long freshmen mentoring program
- One panel interview to be between April 21st and April 25th
- One faculty or staff letter of recommendation

If you do not meet these requirements but feel you would be a good addition to the Residential Peer Mentor Program, please submit your application with a personal statement explaining your specific situation and your desire and capacity for participation along with one additional letter of recommendation in support of your application.

Residential Peer Mentor Application

Commonly Asked Questions

What is the general time commitment?

Each student staff position is unique. Each week will vary greatly depending on the time of year. Being a student staff member is a time commitment, but it is one that is based on your individual situation. There is no way to determine exactly how much time it will take to be an effective student staff member. In addition to August and January training, we have regular staff meetings and staff development activities. We will provide you with a schedule of these meetings to help you better plan your time. The general guidelines for this position are listed below.

- Provide office coverage at staff office or from your room/apartment – 5 hours per week
- Coordinate academic skills study sessions – (2 hours/month)
- Meet individually 1-on-1 with your direct supervisor – 1 hour, bi-weekly
- Meet with the Building staff of your assigned building – 1 hour per week
- Meet with the Residential Peer Mentor Staff – 1 hour bi-weekly
- Attend programs– 1 hour per week
- Attend staff development events – 1-2 hours per month

When do I have to be back to school in August?

Training for student staff generally begins approximately one week before classes start.

Will my housing preferences affect whether I am hired?

Our goal is to hire the most qualified candidates. We use your housing preferences to try and make the best possible match. Ultimately, the more flexible you are, the more chances you have to be placed.

What is the compensation for being a Residential Peer Mentor?

- Single bedroom in the building which you are placed.
- Residential Peer Mentors placed in Edgewood Commons will have the opportunity to identify up to 3 apartment-mates that they want to live with.

What's the selection process like?

After receiving applications, we will be contacting qualified candidates to schedule an interview. You will interview with a panel of representatives from Residence Life and Edgewood Commons Apartments.

When do I find out if I've been selected?

All candidates will be notified whether or not they've been selected no later than June 1st. Please note that you should proceed with the standard Residence Life or Edgewood Commons room selection process.

Residential Peer Mentor Application

Applications due by 4:30pm April 11th to the Residence Life Office or Edgewood Commons Office

Name _____ FSU ID# _____

Email Address _____ Cell Phone _____

Permanent Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Local Address _____

Cumulative GPA _____ Anticipated Graduation Date _____

Major _____

Reference Name: _____ Reference Phone: _____

Reference Email: _____

Residence Preference

Each Residence building is different and we want you to be comfortable living and working in an environment that you specify. Please indicate your preference for working in each Residence building by using a 1-7 scale (1 being first preference, 7 being last preference). If you are NOT interested in a specific Residence building, please place an "X".

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Allen Hall | <input type="checkbox"/> Annapolis Hall |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cumberland Hall | <input type="checkbox"/> Diehl Hall |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Edgewood Commons | <input type="checkbox"/> Gray Hall |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Simpson Hall | <input type="checkbox"/> Frost Hall |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No preference | |

You may use the space below to provide any additional comments regarding your preferences.

Please elaborate on, using a separate sheet of paper, the following questions. Responses should demonstrate your interest and qualifications in becoming a Residential Peer Mentor.

1. Please attach a copy of your Spring Semester Class Schedule – this will allow us to coordinate an interview time with you that will fit your schedule and ours.
2. Please list your campus and community involvement, both past and present, as well as any leadership positions.
3. What is your definition of a Peer Mentor? Describe what you perceive to be the role of a Peer Mentor and how you would perform such a role if you were selected.
4. Describe in detail your personal attributes/qualifications that would contribute to the success of first year students.
5. Identify and elaborate on one goal (either long term or short term) you would like to achieve. How would serving as a Peer Mentor assist you in reaching this goal?
6. In your opinion, what are the three most pressing issues first year students encounter at FSU.
7. Describe one role model you have had in your life. What made them a good role model? What made them stand out to you? Describe your relationship with them.