



Peer Leadership for College Access & Success CORE COMPETENCIES

Highly trained Peer Leaders understand and know how to do all of the following:



Peer Leader Knowledge

COLLEGE ENVIRONMENT & FIT

Peer Leaders can ENGAGE Students

- The landscape of college options. >>>>> To explore options, create balanced college lists that reflect good "match" opportunities, and choose "good fit" colleges.
- The range of opportunity programs and eligibility requirements. >>>>> To complete opportunity program processes.
- The social-emotional aspect of post-secondary transitions and campus integration, and their importance to student success. >>>>> To connect to campus-based places and people that promote a sense of belonging and provide strong supports for persistence.

Peer Leader Knowledge

PAYING FOR COLLEGE

Peer Leaders can ASSIST Students

- All facets of the financial aid application, verification, and/or refile process. >>>>> By providing culturally competent technical support in order for them and their families to successfully complete financial aid applications
- The components of financial aid award letters. >>>>> To decode and compare packages in order to make a "good fit" decision.
- The role of private and college-based scholarships and loans in the financial aid process. >>>>> To talk with family about financial decisions related to post-secondary planning.

Peer Leader Knowledge

NAVIGATING COLLEGE SYSTEMS

Peer Leaders can SUPPORT Students

- The support resources available on college campuses. >>>>> To navigate and access campus-based supports and resources, including CUNY special programs.
- CUNY, SUNY, and private college application and transfer systems, including opportunity and other special programs. >>>>> With completing the necessary application components.
- The steps leading to successful college matriculation and persistence and common roadblocks students encounter. >>>>> In completing the tasks required between college commitment and enrollment.

Peer Leader Knowledge

CAREER PATHWAYS

Peer Leaders can GUIDE Students

- The ways in which career interests inform majors and post-secondary pathways. >>>>> To use career pathway information to inform students' post-secondary choices.
- The city and state-funded non-college opportunities available in NYC. >>>>> Who aren't choosing college to select "good fit" alternative post-secondary options.

Peer Leader Knowledge

COUNSELING & COMMUNICATION

Peer Leaders can CONNECT WITH Students

- Effective, culturally competent counseling and communication skills in relation to the social-emotional challenges of post-secondary planning. >>>>> By utilizing counseling strategies to develop a "good match" post-secondary plan and/or persist in college.
- The timeline for critical benchmarks, including the importance of accurate data. >>>>> By using data to track and support student progress.
- The needs of vulnerable student populations, including MLLs, undocumented students, and students with IEPs. >>>>> To tailor the application, matriculation, and/or persistence process to ensure the success of vulnerable student populations.
- Presentation and group communication skills. >>>>> By running workshops and transmitting knowledge to a range of audiences, including students, parents, and school staff.
- Their influence as a peer and the context of youth organizing. >>>>> By using their youth perspective to create youth-friendly spaces and engage all students in the post-secondary planning process.

>ENGAGE

>ASSIST

>SUPPORT

>GUIDE

>CONNECT