Peer Chaplain Program – Undergraduate Position

The Peer Chaplaincy program is a joint initiative between the Office of the Chaplain & Religious Life and RLSH. We are seeking Perkins seminary students and undergraduate students to be 2021-2022 peer chaplains. This program is aligned with the Student Affairs Learning Domain of Holistic Wellness as its goal is to integrate healthy practices within every aspect of student life in the Commons through the focus of spiritual life.

Position Description

- The Student is expected to hold 5 hours/week in their assigned Commons where they provide a listening presence to fellow students struggling with academic pressure, relationships, homesickness or other stresses. The successful candidate will be responsible for creating 1 program per month; these programs may be done in collaboration with a graduate peer chaplain or other Residential Commons staff and peer leaders.
- The main aims are to cultivate a mutual sense of well-being, to help reduce feelings of alienation, to offer empathy to anyone in need, and to explore issues of faith that may arise.
- The Student will meet *twice a month* with other peer chaplains and the Assistant Chaplain for reflection and vocational discernment.

Minimum Qualifications

- Good academic standing with the university – minimum GPA of 3.0
- Rising sophomore, junior or senior planning to live in the Commons for the 2021-2022 academic year
- Student of outstanding character interested in exploring the intersection between faith and living environments

Requirements

- Completed application on Connect.smu.edu/Qualtrics; upload resume
- Letter of recommendation from a spiritual mentor (i.e. pastor, rabbi, priest, professor, small group leader)
- Interview with staff members of the OCRL & RLSH

Mentorship Activities and Responsibilities

- Early August Training and Move-in: Attend Peer Chaplaincy training in the summer with the Chaplain’s Office; Attend relevant RLSH training during the summer; help with undergraduate Move-in
- Meetings: Attend Monthly meetings with RLSH staff; Meet bi-weekly with graduate Peer Chaplains; Meet monthly with OCRL staff member
- Integrate in the Commons: Attend Commons events and Commons Council meetings; Plan 1 program per month; meet with students in the assigned Commons
- Keep a log/report of chaplain/student interactions
- Write a 3-page theological reflection on your experience (each semester)

Benefits

- Significant leadership experience
- Program planning and development experience
- Specialized training opportunities
- Early Move-In