Peer Academic Mentoring Program

Peer Academic Mentors are CGS sophomores who offer assistance with ORGANIZATIONAL SKILLS and STUDY STRATEGIES. The areas where Peer Academic Mentors can be of the most help are in the “nuts and bolts” of a course: note taking, exam preparation techniques, reading, and forming study groups.

Some guidelines:

Students seeking help need to be made aware at the outset that peer mentors are NOT content-area tutors. They are NOT miracle workers. And the service they provide is strictly supplemental and NOT long term. Peer mentors usually meet with a student once during the semester (at most twice).

A student MUST first meet with his/her professor (office hour or tutorial) at least once before he/she works with a peer mentor.

Students who are really struggling in their courses might be best served if they meet with their professors several times before they work with a peer mentor. These students most likely do need help with course content. They probably also need help with organizational skills and study strategies, but getting a better grasp on course content or specific concepts during their meetings with their professors will certainly enable students to feel more empowered: intellectually and emotionally.

What students seeking help can expect:

During a one hour mentoring session, peer mentors offer recommendations and suggestions that address the mentee’s specific organizational/study issue. Peer mentors (based on their own academic experience) also let mentees know that academic success requires a significant amount of a student’s time outside of class (mentees are often flabbergasted when they hear that peer mentors spend 4-6 hours a day studying). And peer mentors have been instructed to urge mentees to meet with their professors during their office hours and attend weekly tutorials. Peer mentors point out that meeting regularly with their professors lets professors know the mentee is a serious student (most of the peer mentors met with their professors during their freshman year and continue to meet with their professors as sophomores, so they again speak from experience).