

## Residential Peer Health Ambassador

**The Residential Peer Health Ambassador** position is a newly-created peer health initiative designed to provide residential students living on campus at UMBC with guidance around healthy behaviors and social norms related to COVID-19. Student ambassadors will live in the residence halls and will work under the supervision of Residential Life with University Health Services. The position is designed specifically to educate and empower residential students about healthy decision-making through helpful and non-threatening proactive and responsive interventions. Students in this position will be trained to safely engage with their residential peers on topics such as mask-wearing, physical distancing, proper cough/hand hygiene, and to ensure that questions and expectations about health and safety at the University are addressed.

This position is one component of the Residential Life Plan for continuing to prioritize well being, and supporting health and safety in the residential community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### The goals of the program:

- Support reopening and operating the residence halls
- Utilize peer-to-peer influence, strategic dialogue and other proactive and responsive interventions to engage the residential community in healthy behaviors including physical distancing, wearing face coverings, practicing hand and cough hygiene, using hand sanitizer, testing, symptom tracking, etc.
- Provide the residential community with visible peer health educators and representatives to assist and answer questions related to operating the residence halls during the COVID-19 pandemic

### Qualifications:

- Undergraduate or graduate residential students at UMBC
- Experience with residential life, peer health, public health education and/or customer service

### Requirements:

- Residential student
- Committed to practicing healthy behavior on campus to keep the community as safe as possible
- Serve as a friendly and encouraging role model to campus community members to follow COVID-19 guidelines
- Able to hold students and staff accountable to current COVID-19 CDC and campus guidelines (physical distancing, face mask/covering, and hand washing/sanitizing, etc.)
- Able to support the safe operation of the residential community by providing feedback on the climate of healthy behavior including, but not limited, most pressing concerns they are seeing/experiencing in interactions
- Able to be outdoors for up to 2-hour shifts and work a minimum of 10 hours per week
- Required to attend a foundational training and expected to participate in follow-up educational sessions with staff oversight group as needed
  - The established Peer Health Educator training for the University will be the basis for the position
- Full-time enrolled undergraduate or graduate student for the Spring 2021 semester
- In good academic standing with a minimum cumulative 2.5 GPA and good disciplinary standing

### Compensation:

Students in this position will be compensated at a rate of \$20/hour.

### Application and hiring process:

**If you are interested in the position, please fill out the [application here](#). Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. The first round of interviews will be offered on 12/23/20. Interviews will begin 1/4/21 and will continue to be offered on a rolling basis until all positions are filled.**

## **Job responsibilities:**

### Proactive peer health interventions:

- Maintain consistent physical presence in their assigned residential community. Walking halls, attending events (safely), walking, biking, or otherwise traveling a predetermined route through their assigned community
- Approach and engage with students, faculty, staff, and any persons in the residential community, to remind and reinforce the COVID-19 Emergency Health and Safety rules
- Support the [Live Smart](#) Campaign by managing distribution and display of campaign materials and messaging, promoting the Live Smart Tools: Testing, symptom tracking, on-campus activities and reporting, and coping resources
- Help organize health information and distribute it through strategic dialogue tabling events, orientations, presentations, and other events
- Help direct traffic during peak times such as move-in and move-out and remind students to wear masks, physical distance, etc.
- Attend on-campus and virtual events to answer questions and share information

### Responsive peer health interventions:

- Correct non-compliance with COVID-19 Emergency Health and Safety rules, including: improper mask wearing, lack of physical distancing in groups
  - Commending and rewarding community members who are in compliance
  - Answer questions when approached about COVID-19 rules
- Engage Residential Life staff, UMBCPD, and other resources when non-compliance persists or personal safety is at risk
- Follow up on non-compliance with testing and symptom tracking
- Document repeat violations and communicate those violations appropriately to the Assistant Director of Residential Student Conduct
- Plan, coordinate and implement virtual engagement opportunities for students in QI housing
- Support students in QI housing by serving on QI duty rotation to remotely and/or safely respond to student needs

### Hall-related responsibilities:

- Assist with opening and closing
- Once per month sit in RA staff meeting, and a 1:1 with the CD for your hall
- Provide education and support as directed for Residential Life projects and operations: Spring Break, re-licensing/assignment, orientation, desk operations, etc.

## **Training and work hours:**

- Commitment of 10 hours a week
  - Work hours range from 12:00 PM to 10:00 PM during the week, and 3:00 PM to 1:00 AM on weekends
  - Rounds must be completed 4 times a week - 3 days during the week, and 1 on the weekend. (roughly 4-5 hours)
  - 1 hour staff meeting per week
  - Additional 4-5 hours per week will be spent doing education and outreach and hall-related activities
  - Going over 10 hours per week needs to first be approved by supervisor
- Undergo training covering de-escalation, developing confrontation skills, bystander intervention, documentation, and COVID-19 public health