

## **Residential Peer Health Ambassador**

**The Residential Peer Health Ambassador (PHA)** position is a 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 and other public health topics. Student ambassadors will live in the residence halls and will work under the supervision of Residential Life with the Office of Health Promotion. 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:**

- 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, surveillance testing, etc.
- Provide the residential community with visible peer health educators and representatives to assist and answer questions related to operating the residential communities during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Proactively address relevant public health concerns in the residential communities through outreach and programming

### **Qualifications:**

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

### **Requirements:**

- Must currently have a housing license with Residential Life or Walker Avenue Apartments for the 2021-2022 academic year
- Committed to practicing healthy behaviors 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 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 2021-2022 academic year
- 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.

While students are required to live on campus, this position does not include free or discounted on-campus housing.

### **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 October 8. Interviews will begin October 11 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
- Help organize health information and distribute it through strategic dialogue tabling events, orientations, presentations, and other events
- Collaborate with Resident Assistants and Resident Student Association to plan events centered on community wellbeing
- Attend on-campus and virtual events to answer questions and share information

#### Responsive peer health interventions:

- Provide feedback on observed risky behaviors (e.g. close indoor gatherings without masks) and confront any violated COVID-19 policies (e.g. gathering over capacity limit, guest policy violations)
  - Commend and reward community members demonstrating safe practices
  - Answer questions when approached about COVID-19 rules
- Document repeat violations and communicate those violations appropriately to the Acting Coordinator for Compliance & Community Wellbeing
- Engage Residential Life staff, UMBCPD, and other resources when non-compliance persists or personal safety is at risk
- Follow up with students with vaccine exemptions on non-compliance with testing and symptom tracking
- Plan, coordinate and implement virtual engagement opportunities for students in QI housing
- PHAs may serve as backup for Quarantine & Isolation Student Staff to assist with meal delivery to students in quarantine if necessary.

#### Community-related responsibilities:

- Sit in RA staff meeting, and a 1:1 with the CD for your community once per month
- Provide education and support as directed for Residential Life projects and operations: Break openings/closings, re-licensing/assignment, orientation, desk operations, etc.
- Other in-community opportunities may exist for Peer Health Ambassadors to pick up additional hours

### **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 hours)
  - 1 hour staff meeting per week
  - Additional 4-5 hours per week will be spent doing education and outreach and community-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