



FAQ: Learning Assistant Program



1. Which classes have Learning Assistants?

Learning assistants (LAs) primarily support classes in the College of Science. This semester, learning assistants support the following courses: BIOL 10, BIOL 30, BIOL 115, CHEM 30B, ASTR 101, PHYS 2A Lecture & Lab, PHYS 2B, and PHYS 51.

2. Do Learning Assistants host sessions or have meetings with students?

No, learning assistants are embedded peer educators, which means that they provide support directly in classes. They don't host workshops or sessions.

3. What are the responsibilities of a learning assistant?

Learning assistants facilitate class discussions, support students as they complete in-class activities, and ask guiding questions. Learning assistants attend weekly preparation meetings with faculty to provide the student perspective and suggest ways to improve class engagement. They also act as a liaison between students and instructors by providing student feedback to the professor.

4. What are the qualifications of a Learning Assistant?

To qualify as a college of science learning assistant, students must pass a science course with a C or higher. If selected to be a learning assistant, students must enroll and successfully complete the SCED 174 - Learning Assistant Pedagogy course. Students who fulfill these requirements are eligible to apply to Peer Connections for learning assistant positions.

5. What is not part of the learning assistant's responsibilities?

Learning Assistants do not hold office hours, grade assignments, or teach classes.



6. How can students become Learning Assistants?



Students interested in becoming a learning assistant for the first time will apply to be a learning assistant through the College of Science LA Program. If offered a position through the College of Science LA Program, students will enroll in SCED 174 for their first semester as a learning assistant. As a college of science LA, you'll receive a stipend and class credit for participating in the program.





Once students complete their first semester as an LA, they are eligible to apply to Peer Connections for an LA position. As a Peer Connections LA, students will receive an hourly wage.

7. Do I need to receive A's in my science courses to become a learning assistant?

No! We are not looking for the “perfect” student. Instead, we are looking for students who show potential to be student leaders. We find that students who may have struggled with science classes in the past make excellent LAs. We are looking for organized, responsible, and relatable individuals who take initiative and are willing to learn.

8. What is the time commitment for being a learning assistant?

College of Science learning assistants should expect to spend approximately 7 hours per week on LA related activities. Peer Connections LAs spend approximately 10 hours per week on LA related activities.

9. How do I know if my class has a learning assistant?

Learning assistants introduce themselves on the first day of class, so students don't know if their class has a learning assistant until the semester begins.

If my class has a learning assistant, can I meet with them outside of class?

Learning assistants don't host office hours, so they don't meet with students outside of classes. However, learning assistants are knowledgeable about other campus resources and can always guide students to additional resources if they need support.

If you have any further questions about the Learning Assistant program, feel free to contact us:

Email: peerconnections@sjsu.edu

Phone number: 408-924-2587

Location: Student Services Center, SSC 600

