



FAQ: Peer Tutor Program



1. How many courses are tutored?

There are over 200 courses tutored every 1. semester. Each semester will change based upon our tutor expertise. This website is kept up to date with the most current offerings.

<https://www.sjsu.edu/peerconnections/programs/courses.php>

2. Are there any classes that have Peer Tutors?

Yes, we have begun to place “Embedded Tutors” in classes based upon the request from the faculty member. These tutors still hold office hours and tutor outside of the classroom, but can assist the faculty in the class.

This way the students get to know the tutor even before requesting an appointment. If your class has an embedded tutor, you will meet the tutor the first day of class and the information will be in your syllabus.

3. Are the tutoring sessions conducted online or in-person?

As of now, tutoring is conducted completely online using a platform called GoBoard that offers many resources and features beyond the zoom capability.

4. How do I make a tutoring appointment and where are they held?

You can make appointments online or by emailing us at peerconnections@sjsu.edu – scheduling online is recommended. Right now, all appointments are being held online.

5. What are the responsibilities of a tutor?

The tutor assists the students in determining appropriate goals for learning and supports the student in their journey. The tutor will demonstrate study strategies that work best for the particular content the student is learning. They will often refer back to the student’s notes or books and ask questions about what happened in class. The tutor may show the student where to find other resources to aid in understanding the material such as handouts or websites that can assist the student when they are not in tutoring sessions.





6. What is not part of the tutor's responsibilities?

The tutor is not there to give answers. The tutor does not “grade” assignments nor edits papers. Think of a tutor as someone who is building up your capacity to do the work on your own rather than “showing” you what to do. The tutor does not replace attending class or visiting the instructor during office hours.

7. How are tutoring sessions conducted?

Tutoring sessions are typically one student and one tutor. Small group tutoring sessions may be requested. Students bring their questions and challenging concepts to the tutors so essentially, the tutee directs the session. The tutee will be doing the majority of the talking during a session while the tutor provides guiding questions to assist the tutee in discovering the answers themselves. This method of learning assures the student has full understanding of the topic and not just rote memorization.

8. What are the qualifications of a tutor?

A tutor must have an overall GPA of a 3.0 or higher and must have earned a B or better in any class they tutor. The tutor also attends professional development meetings to learn about tutoring techniques and student development. They learn about campus resources and the best ways to assist students.

9. Do the professors attend tutoring sessions?

Professors do not attend tutoring sessions. It will only be the tutor and tutee in the session. If you want your professor to know that you've attended a session, you may request verification at peerconnections@sjsu.edu and you will get an email that you can forward directly to your instructor.



10. How much does it cost to attend a tutoring session?

Tutoring is free for SJSU students! You have paid for this service in your tuition, so please use it.



11. What is expected from students who attend tutoring sessions?

Students should bring their notes and questions to tutoring sessions.

They should have an idea as to what they want to accomplish with the tutor.

12. What is the tutoring cancellation policy?

Students should do their best to cancel 24 hours before any tutoring session as is good practice with any appointments. This allows other students a chance to sign up for the newly opened tutor time. However, we understand that situations happen and you may not be able to cancel that far in advance. Therefore, cancel as soon as you can. If you cannot cancel within 6 hours of the tutoring session or if you do not show up, it is considered a “no-show.” Students who have 3 “no-shows” across all centers on campus, get a hold put on their account and they can no longer create appointments until they speak with a professional staff member. This is to allow the student an opportunity to find out about other resources should they be needed.

13. Are there any other tutoring policies that I should know?

Students are allowed to make one appointment per subject per week.

Students with accommodations through the Accessible Education Center can make two appointments per subject per week. We recommend that students stay with the same tutor for the semester. This allows the best understanding of the student’s needs and the most growth can be achieved. All tutoring sessions are recorded for internal use to assist tutors in training activities and for evaluative purposes.

How can the students become Peer Tutors?

Peer Connections accepts applications every semester for the following semester. Typically applications for the Fall semester are available in late February/early March and applications for the Spring semester are available in late September/early October. Please see <https://www.sjsu.edu/peerconnections/about/our-team.php> for more information about applying and the various roles we have available.

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

Email: peerconnections@sjsu.edu

Location: Student Services Center, SSC 600

