

Augie Access Peer Navigators

Guide Sheet

Program Coordinator Contact Information:

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What is a Peer Navigator?

Peer Navigators are typical Augustana University students, in any major or program, who are employed through the Augie Access program to provide direct and/or indirect supports to students in the Augie Access program at Augustana University.

What are the expected duties/responsibilities?

- ◆ Attend Person Centered Training (usually 1-2 days) before beginning to work with Augie Access students.
- ◆ Provide orientation around campus, especially through the first few weeks, after breaks, and when semesters change.
- ◆ Provide companionship during open time periods or breaks (usually from 11:00 am— 2:00 pm, and in the evenings).
- ◆ Inform students of events occurring on campus. Assist by discussing possible events, ways to get to the event, and scheduling. If you are going to that event, and willing to take them along, please feel free to do so!
- ◆ Meet at least **1** time per month with Augie Access Coordinator to discuss progress, questions, and concerns. You are expected to contact the program coordinator with concerns when they arise, however, so any issues can be dealt with quickly and appropriately to ensure that everyone has the best experience possible! An initial meeting—preferably before the term begins—will be held to draw up the Peer Navigator/Augie Access Student Agreement, which clearly outlines the expectations in several areas of the collegiate experience.
- ◆ Foster independence and self-advocacy in students when opportunities present themselves.
- ◆ To know the student's likes, dislikes, and assist them in matching activities to those factors.
- ◆ Model appropriate behavior: these students need particular help with social skills! It is okay to discreetly and respectfully correct a student when behavior is not appropriate. If you need some advice, don't hesitate to contact the program coordinator.
- ◆ Minimal documentation – note the events you attended / activities you did with your peer; complete end-of-term surveys, etc.

How many hours per week? What are the hours? How much will I be paid?

Peer Navigators are expected to work between 5-10 hours per week—scheduling is FLEXIBLE! We can work around your schedule. The rate of pay is \$11.25 per hour.

How many students will I be working with? What if it isn't 'working' with my student?

Students and Peer Navigators are “matched” according to several factors, such as shared interests and time factors. Much of this decision lies with you as a peer navigator and your personal preference. You will generally be expected to be one-on-one with your peer, but at times, may be asked to accompany a group of Augie Access students on an event or outing. Please note that if you are struggling with a particular student, the program coordinator is here to help. If you'd like to switch working with a particular student, that can certainly be arranged. Remember: Early communication will solve most issues!

Do I have to tutor my student in their regular Augustana courses?

The goal of a Peer Navigator is to improve the quality of social interactions and participation on and/or off campus. You are not responsible for assisting them with their coursework as your duties do not include tutoring. However, if your student comes to you with an academic concern, and you feel able to help them, you may do so. Otherwise, refer them back to the program coordinator who can get them in touch with their Academic Navigators.