

# Why your College Student Might Want to Become A Peer Tutor

Posted by: College Parents of America

Tutoring can make the difference of academic success for many students. Having a tutor can mean that a student has a stronger grasp of the course material and may receive a better grade. Most of us understand why a student may want to get a tutor.

However, we may wonder why a student might want to *become* a tutor. Of course, some students may become a tutor for some extra income, but tutoring is time-consuming and requires hard work, preparation, and effort. Why would your student want to become a peer tutor to help other students with their coursework?

There are actually many benefits of tutoring – for the tutor as well as for the tutee. You may want to help your student consider why he might want to become a peer tutor at his college or university.

- Peer tutors are usually paid. The wage may be minimum, but tutoring is one good way for a student to earn some extra spending money.
- Tutors often have flexible hours and can set convenient appointment times with students. Tutoring times can be worked around your student's schedule.
- Tutors often make a difference in the lives of the students that they tutor. For a student who wants to contribute to his community and have meaningful interactions with others and make a difference, tutoring is a great avenue.
- Teaching someone else material is the best way to solidify the material and learn it better. Although your student may feel that he understands course content, he will look at it and learn it in a completely new way when he tries to help someone else understand it.
- Tutors often make important gains in their problem-solving abilities. In order to help others learn material, they need to understand students and learning styles, resolve complex issues and break things down into separate parts.
- Your student may gain a greater sense of empathy as a tutor.
- Your student may gain important self-esteem and confidence as a tutor.
- Your student may gain important interpersonal skills by working on listening, communicating clearly and accurately, dealing with possible intercultural issues and creating a positive communication climate.
- Your student may gain greater self-awareness as she discovers her own strengths and weaknesses and helps tutees consider theirs.
- Your student will work at goal setting skills as he helps his tutee plan a course of action.
- Your student will gain understanding of the balance between support and challenge as he works to create a plan to help his tutee achieve his goals.

- Your student will have an important experience to add to her resume. The academic experience, responsibility, and individual skills will be important qualities of interest to employers.
- Your student may make a new friend.

Becoming a peer tutor is a position of prestige on many college campuses. Your student will have an opportunity to gain important skills at the same time that he is helping others. He will be able to learn material better than he would in any other way and to grow personally. Encourage your college student to explore this possible way to add to his college experiences.

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