

Teaching Assistant Training

This training program is a pilot collaboration between the Q Center, the Center for Teaching and Learning and quantitative departments. It offers foundational cross-disciplinary pedagogical and leadership development for students hired by departments to provide peer-to-peer academic support. The goal of the program is threefold:

1. Increase student success in quantitative courses
2. Build a pedagogical community across departments
3. Provide structured and inclusive leadership development for tutors and TAs

The learning goals for participating students are the following:

1. Gain basic pedagogical skills relevant to peer-to-peer academic teaching.
2. Recognize the ways that identity of self and others impacts teaching and learning.
3. Understand the critical role that peer-to-peer academic support plays in supporting an inclusive and positive learning environment at Amherst College.
4. Develop leadership skills that help build an inclusive environment as well as enable better communication and intentional pedagogical structure of peer interactions.

12:00 – 12:15	Lunch and gathering
12:15 – 12:30	Introductions
12:30 – 1:15	“Creating a Welcoming Environment” Building on a leadership development framework, we introduce the ways that considering identity and environment can impact the success of peer-to-peer support interactions. This includes exploration of inclusive practices and consideration of implicit bias and stereotype threat.
1:15 - 2:15	Frameworks for Learning Students will practice communication skills, including learning to observe non-verbal cues, while working in groups to explore key learning theories useful within the context of peer-to-peer support.
2:15 – 3:15	Student Panel – Past TAs/Tutors
3:15 – 4:00	Break-out Sessions Department specific discussion

Amherst College

Center for Teaching and Learning

Questions? Contact Dr. Riley Caldwell-O’Keefe, 413-542-5915, rcaldwellokeefe@amherst.edu