



First Year Seminar

Peer Learning Assistant (PLA)

Application

Monmouth University—First Year Seminar (FY101)

732-571-3584

Peer Learning Assistants (PLA's) Needed for First Year Seminars

Students are needed for the First Year Seminar (FY101) classes. The First Year Seminar Peer Learning Assistant (PLA) plays an important role in the life of a new student. Acting as a mentor/role model and assistant to the professor, the PLA helps first-year students with the adjustment, learning and self-exploration processes that freshmen go through.

Does this sound like you?

- You have an interest in becoming more involved at Monmouth
- You would like to work closely with a full-time faculty member to support student learning within the class and on campus
- You remember what it was like to be new to campus and would like to help other new students with their adjustment
- You would like to build up your leadership, communication and organization skills while working under the guidance of our program
- You are considering teaching as a career

If any of these sound like you, continue reading!



PLA's help start conversations, answer questions and provide information to help students in their college-level learning.

Meetings and ongoing training will be held during the semester to help you meet other PLA's, see how things are going, and talk about any issues or ideas you may have about the program.

Special Things to Know:

- PLA's are paid positions
- PLA's help students & faculty both inside and outside of the classroom
- PLA's develop leadership, communication and organizational skills through their work with their classes
- Most First Year Seminar classes meet twice per week for 3 credit hours per week
- Training is required and extremely important! Training dates will be sent to you via email.

Here's How to Apply.....

1. Fill out the First Year Seminar Peer Learning Assistant Application.
2. Attach your schedule, if available, for the semester you are applying for.
3. Note any days/times of sections you would like to be matched up with.
4. Note any professors you would like to work with.
5. Return your application to Bea Rogers, First Year Seminar .
6. Include any relevant information (resume, cover letter, references, on-campus training you've attended, etc...)

What do students say about Peer Learning Assistants?

"She was good—really added valuable information to the class."

"Our PLA was good and necessary for the class."

"She was easy to talk to."

"He told us the 'real deal' about some things."

"He had the best advice."

"Our PLA was good because she helped bring out the student perspective."

"It was nice to have someone who currently attends Monmouth give us opinions."

"Our PLA shared his experiences with us."

"It's good to have someone else in the class who is close to us in age."

Peer Learning Assistant (PLA) Responsibilities

Peer Learning Assistants (PLA's) are Monmouth University students who are paid to help professors with First Year Seminar classes. A particular emphasis will be to help students with their learning on many different levels: learning about themselves and their adjustment to campus life; learning how college is different from high school; and learning as it applies to their academic coursework.

Depending upon your professor, you may:

Help the professor with the class:

- Take attendance
- Contact students who are absent to inform them of assignments, schedule or room changes, etc...
- Help develop assignments & projects
- Read, distribute and collect assignments
- Read announcements and/or bring *The Outlook* to class
- Lead class discussions, particularly those related to transition issues
- Provide feedback on students' reactions to classes and university events

Act as a role model for students:

- Connect informally with students outside of class as a mentor
- Demonstrate both in-class and out-of-class behaviors which are appropriate for academic, personal, and career success

Behind-the-scenes activities:

- Meet with instructor regarding course goals
- Be responsible for disseminating and collecting materials from students
- Organize guest speakers, materials, equipment or resources
- Be familiar with class readings and projects
- Work with eCampus site for the course

What's the First Year Seminar course all about?

First Year Seminar (FY101) is a three-credit course designed to help new students make a successful transition into the intellectual life of Monmouth University. The courses are taught on a variety of topics by fulltime professors, who engage students in scholarly inquiry within their areas of interest and expertise. Within the courses students sharpen their academic skills, study ethical issues related to both the course topic and to university life, and learn about Monmouth resources and opportunities. Students also gain experience in critical analysis of information and hone their research and collaborative problem solving skills. First Year Seminar is a requirement for graduation and must be taken during the student's first semester at Monmouth.



PLA's can help students learn to work in groups and find help through campus resources



“You may help the class in a variety of ways, and it's up to you and your professor to find out how you will best complement one another.”

Getting paid:

- Fill out appropriate forms with the Student Employment Office, including the FAFSA. Timesheets must be filled out every 2 weeks during the semester.



Although you will be paid for your work as a First Year Seminar Peer Learning Assistant (PLA), there are many other hidden benefits as well!