



PEER ACADEMIC SUCCESS COACHING

NEW FOR FALL 2022

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
bit.ly/spspascinfo

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – FACULTY/STAFF

Are students automatically assigned a coach?

No, students are not automatically assigned a coach. Participation in this program is voluntary. Students interested in coaching sessions are responsible for finding an available coach and scheduling an appointment through their student account on SPS Engage.

How can the SPS PASC Program help my students?

The purpose of coaching is to provide short-term assistance for SPS students looking to enhance their approach to graduate school. Coaches will help students assess their current practices and identify areas of improvement with concepts such as time management, studying, goal-setting, etc. Coaches are NOT authorized to provide assistance with specific course content or for teaching students any kind of academic material related to their program.

Students participating in the PASC Program will be able to implement academic success strategies, experience an increase in self-confidence and self-efficacy, and have the opportunity to develop meaningful relationships with their peers.

What happens during a coaching session?

Coaches and students work together to identify barriers to academic success and develop a plan for overcoming those challenges. Coaches will help students set and achieve academic goals and discuss strategies for success in the classroom. A coach is not authorized to provide academic assistance with specific course content and will not complete assignments, exams, or projects with students.

Why is a student contacting me for a recommendation?

Students interested in becoming Peer Academic Success Coaches are required to receive TWO recommendations: one from their SPS Academic Advisor, and one from another SPS Faculty or Staff member of their choice. Students are solely responsible for identifying and reaching out to their recommenders to provide the form link and ask for a recommendation. Applications will not be considered complete until both recommendations are on file. Formal letters of recommendation are not necessary. Your responses are kept confidential from the student and should reflect your honest analysis of the student's knowledge and skills.

PLEASE NOTE: if you are asked to complete the recommendation form and do not have an account on SPS Engage, you must email sps-studentlife@columbia.edu to request one.

Who are the PASCs?

Our Peer Academic Success Coaches are SPS students who demonstrate academic excellence both inside and outside of the classroom. Each coach receives professional training from SPS staff.

What kind of training do coaches receive?

Our coaches receive extensive training from professional staff about academic success strategies, peer mentorship, and more. Prior to hiring, coaches are also required to showcase academic excellence in their time thus far at SPS.

What are the requirements to become a coach?

Prospective coaches must...

- Be located in the United States.
- Be a continuing M.S. or M.P.S. student (not entering their first semester at SPS).
- Have a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.70.
- Be in good academic & behavioral standing.
- Be actively enrolled in class during the semester(s) in which the student will be working.
- NOT be employed at Columbia University in any other capacity. (e.g., academic (TA), administrative (casual), SPS Tutor or work study).
- Complete the online application form in its entirety.
- Receive both required recommendations and submit all materials prior to the application deadline.