

PA Applications for 2024

Lee Coleman, Ph.D.

Mahlet Tesfaye, MSOM

PA Job Description

Serving as a community educator

- Advocate for residents' needs and concerns
- Collaborate with campus resources to develop and implement educational programs and community programs based on residents' needs
- Participate in rotation/welcome activities, and help students adjust to a new living situation
- Promote community, connection, and self-care among residents

PA Job Description

Assisting with crisis support

- Function as an initial point of contact and a referral agent for students in need
- Be available, while recognizing your personal and positional limitations, to listen, advise, and support residents who may be experiencing difficulty
- Appropriately consult with other Peer Advocates, OSE and Counseling Services, when potential problems have been identified
- Collaborate and communicate with OSE, Counseling Services, and other campus agencies around students of concern and during emergency planning and campus crisis response
- PAs are not confidential resources but are expected to keep information private

PA Job Description

Encourage the honor code and personal accountability

- Be a positive role model with regards to the Honor Code and personally uphold Institute/housing policy
- Actively ensure the wellbeing of residents (intervene when necessary, refer to resources)
- Act as a positive role model on campus by respecting Institute policies and fostering a sense of community and respect

PA Job Description

Completing administrative tasks

- Be regularly available and accessible to residents and members of the house/area
- Respond to all communication in a timely manner and follow up with resident concerns
- Hold a welcome meeting for the community at the start of term (explain role, set community expectations)
- Develop regular community building events for residents
- Communicate with OSE about PA budgets
- Meet biweekly with your RAs about students of concern

PA Job Description

Fostering personal and group development

- Understand and use basic level counseling skills (empathic listening, basic emotion regulation skills) to help students
- Maintain good academic/behavioral standing and progress toward degree completion
- Attend the weekly one-term training class during Spring term and earn a passing grade
- Attend biweekly meetings with Lee and Mahlet to discuss issues of concern and ongoing training topics

Other Important Qualities

- Maintaining the privacy of your peers' personal information
- Remembering that PAs are a private, but not confidential, resource
- Knowing when to consult and reach out for additional help and support

Class Information

- The course meets on Thursdays from 7-9 PM each week during Spring term. It's Pass/Fail. We generally have one hour of teaching material and one hour of discussion and role-plays to practice the peer counseling skills you learned in lecture. There is a final exam that covers the entire course.
- This course will teach you the basic skills necessary to engage in a supportive consultation with a peer in distress. You will learn about basic listening and attending skills and will even learn how to engage with someone who endorses suicidal thoughts. This course will also expose you to different mental health concerns common to the university students in general and to Caltech in particular.
- Other common course topics include learning emotional regulation skills, understanding substance abuse, depression, anxiety, eating concerns, and dealing with grief and bereavement. If possible within the limits of COVID restrictions, you will also meet with Mark Stapf once outside of class hours to learn CPR/First Aid.

Application Information

- Applications are open from Monday, January 29th at 8:00 a.m. until Wednesday, February 14th at 5:00 p.m.



Interview Dates: 12:00 - 1:00

- Thursday, Feb 15 – Dabney
- Friday, Feb 16 – Lloyd
- Tuesday, Feb 20 – Bechtel
- Wednesday, Feb 21 – Venerable
- Monday, March 4 – Avery
- Tuesday, March 5 – Ricketts
- Wednesday, March 6 – Fleming
- Thursday, March 7 – Page
- Friday, March 8 – Blacker

Interviews

- After the initial electronic applications, a subset of applicants will be invited to group interviews with some of the current PAs in their house, the RA in their house, Mahlet, and Lee.
- Final decisions will be announced on **Monday, March 11th at 5:00 pm.**

Questions?

Feel free to reach out!

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