

# **Connections Peer Facilitator Application**

## **What is Connections?**

Connections is the required first semester course that continues to orient first-year students to college. The course assists new students in making connections between that which goes on inside the classroom and the experiences they will be having outside the classroom. Each Connections participant (whether first-year student or Peer Facilitator) is involved in the process of developing a learning community in which participants come to know one another, develop a sense of respect for different viewpoints, and learn the value of individual responsibility and accountability. The class meets formally during the first seven weeks of the semester, on Tuesday evenings from 8 – 9 p.m., primarily in residence hall common rooms. On four of these Tuesdays, students and Peer Facilitators are expected to attend a speaker/general session from 6:30 – 7:45 p.m., which is then followed by the group session.

## **What is a Connections Peer Facilitator?**

Peer Facilitators serve as a resource and leader to new students both in and beyond the Connections experience. Peer Facilitators will be assigned to each of the sections of the Connections course (consisting of approximately 15-20 new students each). Facilitators will design appropriate course content, facilitate important discussions around issues of sexual behavior, substance abuse, diversity, and other first-year issues, and keep track of attendance. Peer Facilitators lead activities designed to introduce the students to one another and to build a positive living/learning environment. Some topics are covered through outside experts with speakers and films, with Peer Facilitators providing examples from their own lives as to how the issue at hand impacted them when they were first-year students. All sessions, unless otherwise noted, will be Peer Facilitator led. Each Peer Facilitator will be assigned to a staff mentor and there will be mandatory weekly check-in sessions with the Associate Dean of Students, First-Year Mentor, and designated staff mentors.

## **What are the expectations and benefits of a Connections Peer Facilitator?**

Remuneration will consist of a \$350 stipend for attending several training sessions in late April/early May and in late August, attending all class sessions, outside trips/experiences, and weekly check-in sessions, and some record keeping and follow-up between classes. **You must be available to return to campus on Wednesday, August 22 for training and your first Connections group events which will occur during Fall Into Goucher week (August 23-28).**

**Applications are due by Wednesday, March 28.**

## **Connections Peer Facilitator Application**

Connections will take place on Tuesday nights from 6:30-9:30 p.m. This will vary slightly each week. You must be available to return to campus on Wednesday, August 22 for training and your first Connections group events which will occur during Fall Into Goucher week (August 23-28).

### **General Information**

Name:

Address for remainder of Spring 2007 Semester:

Phone (the one you use most):

E-mail (the one you use most):

Summer address:

Summer phone:

Summer e-mail:

Class Standing (circle one):      FR      SO      JR      SR

Cumulative GPA at end of Fall 2006:

### **References**

Here are the names of two references at Goucher (preferably one faculty member and one staff member) who can speak to you about my skills and experiences:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

**Please answer the following questions by writing a complete paragraph for each. Please attach separate sheets of paper.**

1. Why are you interested in serving as Connections Facilitator? What do you think you have to offer to the new students enrolled in this course? What do you think you will personally gain from being a Connections Facilitator?
2. Describe the challenges of the first-year experience. How can Connections address these challenges?
3. What factors create a positive living/learning environment? How might you facilitate the development of such an environment? How might you go about engaging students in the concepts and content of Connections?
4. In one sentence, what is one piece of advice you wish you had received as a new student at Goucher?

My signature below indicates that I am a student in good standing, and I understand my academic and behavioral records will be checked for verification.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

***Thanks for your interest! Please return this application to Katie Murray, First-Year Mentor (Office: The T – room 305 or e-mail [kathleen.murray@goucher.edu](mailto:kathleen.murray@goucher.edu)) by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, March 28. After an initial paper screening, you may be contacted for a brief interview. All applicants will be notified by Wednesday, April 11.***