

## CSPA Practicum

**Number of Positions Available: 1**

*The staff of the Learning Centers recognizes and values the diversity of the members of James Madison University and of the people whom we serve. We affirm our commitment to creating and maintaining a community which supports and encourages respect for every individual.*

**Department:** Learning Centers: Peer Assisted Study Sessions (PASS) Program

**Executive Director:** Laura Schubert, Ph.D.

### **Mission Statement:**

Our instructional faculty and highly trained peer educators enhance learning through customized instruction, scholarly investigation, and faculty and student development.

### **Functional areas included in this department:**

#### Scholarship

The Learning Centers encourages and values at least 4 areas of scholarly activity based on Boyer's model of scholarship:

- The scholarship of discovery that includes original research that advances knowledge.
- The scholarship of integration that involves synthesis of information across disciplines across topics within a discipline, or across time.
- The scholarship of engagement that involves the rigor and application of disciplinary expertise with results that can be shared with and/or evaluated by peers.
- The scholarship of teaching and learning (Boyer, 1990).

#### Teaching:

Teaching in the Learning Centers is unique and broadly defined. Teaching may take the following forms:

- Consultations with students, faculty, or staff (i.e. tutoring, peer education)
- Instructional workshops, presentations, and resources
- PASS Leader training (helping students develop as leaders and/or peer educators)
- Mentoring (helping students develop academically, professionally, or personally)

#### Service:

The Learning Centers broadly defines professional service. Professional service may take the following forms:

- Administrative responsibilities within the PASS Program
- Committee service within the Learning Centers
- Service to University outreach programs, student organizations, or other initiatives
- Service to the broader community that aligns with JMU's core quality of Engagement

**Students who participate in this experience will gain understanding of student affairs as a profession and the influence academic affairs has on contemporary higher education through a sampling of the following tasks and activities:**

- Create, develop, and participate in PASS pre-semester training
- Create, develop, participate, and assess professional development activities
- Develop resource materials for peer leaders
- Conduct research that is aligned with the PASS Program's mission
- Participate in program assessment
- Review recent literature on supplemental instruction programs in higher education

- Consult with and act as a mentor to peer leaders through observation and 1:1 meetings
- Interview and select student staff
- Develop and implement marketing strategies for program
- Assist with administrative tasks including managing peer leader administrative paperwork

**Students who participate in this experience will be exposed to the purposeful application of the following student development, career development, counseling and/or organizational theories:**

- Bandura's Social Learning Theory
- Astin's Theory of Involvement
- Checkering's Theory of Identity Development
- Cooperation and Collaboration Theory (Allport, Watson, Shaw, May, Doob).
- Kolb's Theory of Experiential Learning
- Constructivist learning theories (Piaget, Vygotsky)
- Fink's model for course design

**Students assigned to this site will be able to participate (as schedules permit) in the following assessment and/or evaluation projects:**

- Assist with compiling reports of student outcomes in supported courses
- Assist in the development and implementation of criteria for session observations to be utilized by the PASS leadership team
- Revise and improve evaluation forms for the PASS leadership team and coordinator

**Students who participate in this experience will be evaluated and provided on-going feedback in the following ways:**

- Individual weekly meetings with PASS program coordinator
- Monthly meetings with LC Executive Director
- End of the semester formal evaluation by peer leaders, leadership team, and program coordinator

**Specific expectations of students assigned to this site include:**

- Ability to work within a team while being self-directed in independent projects
- Complete 150 office hours by working 10-15 hours/week
- Attend required meetings/workshops/etc.
- Complete projects as assigned
- Uphold professionalism of the department by abiding by departmental policies and procedures
- Demonstrate a willingness to learn and improve

**Contact Person**

Matt Trybus, M.Ed.

Peer Assisted Study Sessions (PASS) Coordinator

[trybusmj@jmu.edu](mailto:trybusmj@jmu.edu)

540-568-6705 voice

[www.jmu.edu/pass](http://www.jmu.edu/pass)