



## STUDY GROUP PEER HELPER PROGRAM FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR FACULTY

### WHAT IS THE STUDY GROUP PEER HELPER PROGRAM?

The Study Group Peer Helper program is designed to support student volunteers in organizing and participating in in-person or online, collaborative, peer-to-peer study groups. Study Group Peer Helpers are co-learners in the course, who take responsibility for hosting weekly group study sessions. Peer helpers promote the group and support voluntary student attendees in setting a study goal for the session and in establishing positive learning environments. Peer helpers do not provide tutoring or remedial support to student attendees, but instead refer students to academic support resources as needed such as the course instructor, teaching assistant, academic advisor, or campus student services.

### WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE STUDY GROUP PEER HELPER?

Virtual Study Group Peer Helpers organize, promote, and maintain weekly, study groups for courses in which they are enrolled. As co-learners in the course, they work with student attendees to collectively choose a study goal for each weekly session. With access to resources and training through the Student Success Centre, Study Group Peer Helpers also promote academic integrity and inclusive and supportive study group dynamics.

### WHAT QUALIFIES A STUDENT TO BE A STUDY GROUP PEER HELPER?

To become a Study Group Peer Helper with the Student Success Centre, students participate in an application process, followed by virtual, synchronous training sessions which includes content on:

- Peer Helper expectations
- How to create a positive and effective study group environment
- Academic integrity training in relation to collaborative learning
- Navigating Zoom using recommended settings / room booking supports
- Supporting students in distress

Peer helpers also access further program resources on these topics within D2L and participate in a session observation to receive feedback. Ongoing drop-in sessions for Peer helpers to ask questions or get support from program facilitators are also available.

### WHAT HAPPENS IF STUDENTS ENCOUNTER AN ISSUE DURING A STUDY GROUP?

An important aspect of the Study Group Peer Helper program is ensuring student volunteers are well-supported in their collaborative learning endeavours. Peer helpers have access to program facilitators via weekly drop-in sessions as well as through Microsoft Teams for more urgent inquiries.



Support may include offering peer helpers strategies for navigating the issue, and/or engaging a student participant in need of additional support.

If you have any further questions regarding the Study Hall Peer Helper Program, please feel free to contact Roxanne Ross, Director, Student Success Centre, [rossr@ucalgary.ca](mailto:rossr@ucalgary.ca).