

FAQs about the Public Speaking Center – Interested Tutors

What is the PSC?

The Public Speaking Center provides quality peer-to-peer consulting for all UW-L students seeking assistance on oral presentations and public speaking assignments. Peer Consultants provide support for students with topic selection, outlines, delivery, presentational aids, managing speaking anxiety, and increasing confidence.

What do PSC Peer Consultants do?

Peer Consultants attend training sessions, promote the Center's services, develop and host workshops, aid in developing the Center's resources, and serve as representatives and members of the Murphy Learning Center.

When do you hire?

We hire new tutors once a year, generally in March and April to be ready to start in fall.

How many hours per week do tutors work?

Peer consultants work 1-8 hours per week from the third week of class until the last day of class.

When is the PSC open?

The Public Speaking Center is open Sunday afternoons, Monday-Thursday from the morning until the early evening, and Friday mornings.

How is the schedule for tutors set?

Students choose their hours of availability. Students who work in the Public Speaking Center set their availability and will have the same schedule for the entire semester.

What if I have an emergency and must miss a shift?

There is a system for emergencies or conflicts for tutors to cover for each other.

What is tutoring training?

New Peer Consultants should plan to enroll in a 299 course in the Fall of their first semester as part of their certification and training.

What are the requirements to being a peer tutor?

- At least a 3.0 GPA (or permission from the Murphy Learning Center Director)
- Grade of an A, AB, or B in subject content being tutored
- Recommendation of two faculty/staff from the discipline you would like to tutor (see application)

- Successful completion of CST 110 (upon start of tutoring in the Public Speaking Center)

What are the qualities of a good peer tutor?

- An effective tutor should possess the following traits:
 - Dependability and punctuality
 - Effective communication skills: listening, speaking, and observing
 - Empathetic and understanding toward others
 - Developed study habits
 - Personable and organized
 - Willingness to learn and work with others

Being a peer tutor enhances your resume!

- Improved interpersonal and communication skills
- Ability to explain and synthesize information to a wide variety of people
- Increased knowledge of subject matter
- Greater confidence and ability to interact with a variety of people
- Satisfaction of helping others

How do peer tutors get compensated?

Peer Consultants can volunteer, be hired (limited amount of money is available), earn income if work study eligible, and/or earn credit for CST 392: Public Speaking Center Practicum (repeatable up to 6 credits).

Will I get paid in my first semester?

Student will not be paid first semester unless they are eligible for work study. During the 2022-23 academic year, we may be limited in the number of students that we can move to paid (non-work study payment) during their second semester, but there may be opportunities in future semesters.

What is [CST 392](#)?

CST 392 fulfills elective credit for CST majors and 300/400 level credit for all students. Students can take 1-3 hours per semester (up to six hours of credit during your time at UWL)

How many hours do I need to work each week for credit?

- 3 credits = 120 total hours or 8 hours of work per week
- 2 credits = 80 total hours or 5 hours of work per week
- 1 credit = 40 total hours or 3 hours of work per week

I was not the best speaker in my CST 110 class, would I be a good tutor?

Being a good tutor is different than being a good speaker. While effective tutors need to have a good base knowledge of public speaking, it is important for tutors to be able to listen, provide guidance, and support to clients. Most clients come to the Public Speaker

looking for assurance and a peer to provide support on the speech process. If you are willing to provide this guidance, you can be a good tutor.

What happens if a client asks me about speech material I don't remember?

Don't worry, we have lots of resources in the Public Speaking Center (including CST 110 textbooks). We have handouts that you can use during your tutoring session to work with clients. The goal of being a good tutor is not to win Jeopardy – if you know how to look up information when you don't know the answer, this is an important component of tutoring.