



PennRSSA Graduate Assistant Position Openings

Applications to be reviewed on a rolling basis beginning Tuesday, May 26, 2020

The University of Pennsylvania Division of Student Engagement is seeking **100** current Penn graduate and professional students who are interested in serving this summer as graduate assistants (**GAs**) for the **Penn Rising Senior Summer Academy (PennRSSA)**, an adaptive, pioneering new program serving rising seniors attending public and public charter high schools in the School District of Philadelphia.

GAs will receive a stipend of \$2,000 for their participation in the program, which, including staff training, will run for 5 weeks. GAs should expect to work 20 hours per week and must be available to work between the hours of 10am-2pm on weekdays.

A crucial goal of PennRSSA is to increase collaboration between the University and the School District of Philadelphia during a time of heightened need in the face of unprecedented interruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. As such, a core component of PennRSSA programming will be an intensive four-week summer program held virtually to immerse up to **2,500** School District of Philadelphia public and charter school students in an academic, career, and postsecondary preparatory experience with synchronous and asynchronous content, including live instruction and mentorship of peer cohorts.

Penn expects to choose PennRSSA GAs for this unique new program who:

- have a demonstrated interest in educational access and equity;
- are enthusiastic and knowledgeable about synchronous and asynchronous activities to support learning;
- have the ability to provide rich, interactive, mission-aligned content and creative pedagogy;
- can establish authentic relationships; who can work collaboratively with program and School colleagues;
- place participants' interests and aspirations at the heart of the program experience

Specifically, these individuals will be responsible for one "pod" of approximately 25 participants with the primary charge of supporting them throughout the programming day, transitioning them into their morning academic instruction and their afternoon enrichment activities, and ensuring the completion of synchronous and asynchronous program assignments. GAs will also be responsible for:

- reinforcing the instructor's lessons by reviewing material with students one-on-one or in small groups
- providing analytical and qualitative research support for the Division of Student Engagement core team;
- exploring interests in policy, K-12 curriculum development, college access, digital instruction, and more;
- learning how to develop student-responsive programming in the face of global crisis;
- engaging directly in efforts to strengthen collaboration between elite research universities and large urban public school districts;
- supporting quantitative and qualitative data collection to evaluate program components and submitting contributions to a written report or white paper to be released by the Division of Student Engagement at the conclusion of the inaugural program run.

Below is an outline of the scope and projected timeline for the program:

Staff Orientation and Training (Required): June 2020 (dates TBA) / **Program Orientation:** June 29, 2020

Program Work: July 6-31, 2020 / **Debrief Session:** August 3, 2020

Students interested in this opportunity should complete the GA application [here](#). Students interested in an independent study option should contact their faculty advisor as soon as possible. Questions? Please contact us at penn-rssa@upenn.edu.