

FAQ: Next Step Ambassadors



How will Ambassadors serve as peer mentors?

Five Ambassadors will be selected to be the *Circle of Support* for each Next Step student for the semester. The *Circles* assist the Next Step student during scheduled activities throughout each day. Support will be needed during workout sessions, technology/organizational sessions, lunch, academic tutoring, and social times like club meetings and sporting events. Each *Circle of Support* will have the ability to decide which member will cover which activities each week. Our goal is to have each *Circle of Support* evolve into a *Circle of Friends* that is responsive to each individual's needs. Note: Mentors will only work with students of the same sex. We currently need 15 male and 15 female Ambassadors.

How much time will Ambassadors need to commit to at any one time?

1 hour - lunch, academic tutoring,

45 min. to 1 ½ hr - technology/organizational sessions

2 hr - workout sessions (includes time to travel to rec. center, and clean-up after exercising)

? hr - Student Club activities, sporting and performance events

Please refer to sample Next Step student schedule.

Minimum 5 hours/week

What type of training will Ambassadors receive?

Ambassadors will be required to participate in a 3 hour orientation on Saturday, Nov. 14th. Ambassadors will receive training on disability awareness, social skills training, and strategies for improving learning. Time will also be spent building bonds among the *Circles*.

There will also be on-going support and training throughout each semester. Tammy Day, the Next Step director, will be in touch electronically and personally to offer support and suggestions to each Ambassador. We would also like to create a listserv problem-solving chat room for Ambassadors to reach out to one another for suggestions.

Background checks-

Because Ambassadors will be working with what is considered a "vulnerable population," finger printing and background checks will be done. There will be no cost to the VU students to have these completed.

Please check out our website for more information at <http://NextStep.Vanderbilt.edu>