PEER TO PEER TUTORING

PURPOSE

The Peer to Peer Tutoring Program is intended to provide an additional level of academic support to students wishing to receive help with their courses outside of the classroom environment and aims to support student success through peer tutors. Tutors strive to identify strategies to improve learning in order to increase knowledge and confidence around particular areas of study. It represents a supplement to academic support services provided by the Course Director, Faculty, and the Office of Medical Education. The program serves the dual purpose of providing an opportunity for tutors, students in their 2nd, 3rd or 4th year of medical school to reinforce their knowledge and critical thinking skills while simultaneously helping their colleagues achieve the same goal.

TUTORING TO FACILITATE LEARNING

Students may request tutoring assistance at any time and are encouraged to do so at the earliest indication of difficulty in a course. Students experiencing difficulty in any course are urged to seek the help and assistance of the course coordinator or their College Master before the problem becomes unmanageable. If academic problems arise, school funded tutoring services are available through the Office of Student Affairs, Admissions and Outreach. Students requiring this assistance may be referred by the faculty of the course, by their College Master, the Associate Dean of Student Affairs, Admissions and Outreach, or by the Student Promotions Committee.

Additional tutoring is offered for a nominal fee by students who have successfully completed courses. These tutors typically post their contact information on campus bulletin boards. In addition, the Office of Student Affairs, Admissions and Outreach keeps a list of recommended tutors and can provide insight into selecting a suitable tutor.

In order to provide the best possible experience for both tutors and tutees, prospective tutors are required to undergo a brief training session that will help reinforce or develop their teaching skills, and encourage "active learning" during the tutoring session. Tutees should expect tutors to strongly encourage them to conceptualize their understanding of basic science knowledge on whiteboards, and practice integration and application of their knowledge utilizing test questions. The tutor will serve as a facilitator of the learning process, filling content gaps as needed, assessing and/or modifying the tutee's reasoning and problem solving skills. Additional tutoring is offered free of charge and is provided by faculty volunteers in the form of review sessions.

DISCLAIMER
The Peer to Peer Tutoring Program endeavors to assist students in improving academic performance. Students seeking assistance may experience different levels of success based on factors including, but not limited to current academic progress, relative effectiveness of study skills, and timeliness in seeking academic support services. Students are expected to proactively seek assistance from the Module/Course Director, Faculty, Senior Associate Dean for Students and/or Pre-Clinical Advisors as soon as any academic or non-academic concerns arise.

The Peer to Peer Tutoring Service is available only to enrolled medical students. All students seeking tutoring services will have enrollment status verified, and violations of stated policies will be reported to the appropriate program coordinator.

Within each course, Course Directors hire very knowledgeable students to serve as Tutors, and one Tutor in each course will serve as a Tutor Coordinator. Together with the Course Director, each Tutor Coordinator oversees the Tutors and monitors student progress. The Tutor Coordinators also facilitate the scheduling of individual tutoring sessions.