WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO TEACH A FIGS?
First-Year Interest Group Seminars (FIGS) are one-credit courses for first-year students focused on an academic or career interest area and taught by experienced Rutgers students in their junior or senior year. Peer Instructors (PIs) develop a ten-week course that exposes students to career, research, and educational opportunities as well as the many resources available at Rutgers. PIs collaborate with the FIGS Team to customize their courses, integrating required FIGS Elements (academic success, diversity and inclusion, personal wellness, etc.) with interactive educational activities. As a FIGS Peer Instructor, you will have the opportunity to share your knowledge of an academic topic, your Rutgers experiences, and your advice for succeeding in college with up to 25 students.

WHAT WILL I GAIN AS A PEER INSTRUCTOR?
At the Office of Career Exploration and Success, we believe teaching a college course is an incredible professional development opportunity for any Rutgers student. Whether you’re planning to study law, practice medicine, work as an engineer, or pursue another field, teaching gives you the skills necessary to succeed. Past PIs have written about their time in a FIGS classroom in graduate school applications, talked about their experiences in job interviews, and applied what they learned to the world of work. Here is how your experience will help you develop each of the most highly sought-after professional skills that employers are looking for:

- **Critical Thinking**: developing meaningful lesson plans that meet FIGS program goals, updating and improving lesson plans based on program feedback, and adapting plans to a classroom in real time
- **Communication**: public speaking, corresponding with students and colleagues, and creating course materials
- **Leadership**: managing group dynamics, leading effective activities, fostering individual relationships, and responding to students’ needs
- **Professionalism**: maintaining accurate class attendance records, grading student work, receiving professional feedback on performance, and serving on the Peer Instructor interview team
- **Equity & Inclusion**: creating a respectful community, leading discussions on diversity, and sharing Rutgers values
- **Teamwork**: using strengths and knowledge to assist students, creating healthy classroom dynamics, fostering relationships with FIGS team, a Faculty Mentor, and students
- **Career and Self-Development**: reflecting on one’s learning while developing and revising lesson plans, and adapting teaching based on the feedback of colleagues and students
- **Technology**: overseeing official course site on Canvas, and utilizing innovative teaching strategies

VIRTUAL INFORMATION SESSIONS (please register via Rutgers Handshake):
- Monday, September 25 at 6pm
- Wednesday, September 27 at 7pm
- Friday, October 6 at 5pm
- Tuesday, October 10 at 7pm
- Monday, October 16 at 7pm

Peer Instructors will earn 3 credits in the spring and a $2,000 stipend in the fall semester. Questions? Email us at figs@echo.rutgers.edu
HOW DOES TEACHING A FIGS WORK?
Peer Instructors have a big challenge—customizing a course that blends important concepts from their content area with crucial information about Rutgers resources. To make this happen, Peer Instructors have a lot of support and training along the way. Each Peer Instructor must:

1. **Enroll in a 3-credit spring 2024 Peer Instructor Education course:** Peer Instructors must enroll in PI Education, offered in the spring semester prior to teaching their FIGS. In this course, PIs will discuss fundamental teaching principles, explore new teaching strategies, and develop their lesson plans. Multiple sections of PI Education will be offered in the spring. Specific class times will be coordinated after the selection process. Peer Instructors rank their class section preferences and then receive a SPN for registration. Peer Instructors receive 3 credits for this graded course, which will meet for 3 hours once a week.

2. **Complete summer training in August:** Peer Instructors must participate in a multi-day in-person training session held August 26-28, 2024. During these sessions, PIs will finalize their lesson plans, review course administrative duties, and receive supplemental training.

3. **Attend regular staff and supervisory meetings in the fall semester:** PIs will meet with a member of the FIGS Team to discuss course progress, review administrative duties, and process this career experience.

HOW DO I APPLY?

1. Make sure you meet our requirements. We are looking for undergraduates currently in their sophomore or junior year with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 (3.2 preferred). Candidates must be a Rutgers junior or senior enrolled in the Fall 2024 semester and have 24 credits. At time of application, applicants must have at least one full semester completed at Rutgers University. Peer Instructors are in good academic and disciplinary standing, have strong leadership skills from meaningful campus and community involvement, and demonstrate a strong knowledge of the academic discipline of their course.

2. Complete an application at go.rutgers.edu/teachafigs. Applications are due at Noon EST on Friday, October 20, 2023.

3. Select candidates will receive an email prompting them to choose an individual interview time. All candidates offered virtual interviews will be asked to have a Rutgers faculty or staff member submit a completed recommendation form on their behalf. Recommenders should submit a completed form via email to figs@echo.rutgers.edu in late November. An exact submission deadline and blank form will be provided to the candidate for distribution to recommenders.

4. Prepare for your individual interview! Candidates meet with 3-5 FIGS team members including staff and past Peer Instructors. You will need to prepare a 10-minute interactive teaching demonstration related to your topic. Our best advice is to be comfortable with your content, be creative with your teaching methods, and to show us how you will engage your students. Interviews will be held in November.

5. Check your email one last time! The FIGS team will inform successful candidates of their hire by early December. At the time of selection, the FIGS Team will collect availability for the options for the 3-credit Peer Instructor Education seminar and issue SPNs.

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