

## ***Sexual Assault Peer Education Program***

### ***FIRE! and FIRE Place*** **Member Application**

Sindecuse Health Center  
Office of Health Promotion and Education, 3120

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in the FIRE! (Fighting Ignorance and Rape through Education) Sexual Assault Peer Education Program at Western Michigan University (WMU). The Office of Health Promotion and Education at Sindecuse Health Center offers students of all genders a unique and valuable opportunity to receive training in the area of sexual assault prevention and education. There are a couple of ways to be involved in the program and students may choose to participate in any combination of ways as long as they are also a general FIRE member. Students can choose to join as general FIRE members, general members and FIRE Place support staff, and lastly as general FIRE members plus internship or class credit. Please check the boxes that apply to your choice on the application. Please read this cover letter completely before you proceed with this application. If you decide to continue with the written application, please detach this page and keep it for future reference.

Sexual Assault Peer Educators are WMU students who are highly trained on educating around the issue of sexual assault and in helping survivors, their families, and friends. Students will have the opportunity to participate in peer education, program/event planning, providing supportive services and other awareness/education activities. The Fire Place is a resource and support center that addresses the issues of sexual assault and other bias incidents. Bias incidents are those negative things that may happen to us because of who we are (skin color, gender, sexual orientation etc.) FIRE Place Support Staff will receive extensive training in which they will learn how to provide support and function as an advocate for those who have been affected by some form of violence.

Again, thank you for your interest in WMU's Sexual Assault Peer Education Program, and if you have any questions please contact:

Amber Mosley (Advisor),  
shc-firepeered@wmich.edu  
(269) 387-2990

## **Selection Process:**

There are four steps in the selection process:

1. Complete application and Consent in writing to the membership requirements (refer to last page of application).
2. Submit your completed application to **the Sindecuse Health Center's Office of Health Promotion room 3120 or to [shc\\_firepeered@wmich.edu](mailto:shc_firepeered@wmich.edu)**
3. When submitting your application please sign up for a 30-minute interview. Preferred dress for the interview is business-casual.

## **Benefits of Being a Peer Educator**

- Develop the ability to effectively present complex and sensitive information to small and large audiences.
- Grow in confidence and poise.
- Build your resume for graduate school and/or employment.
- Earn letters of recommendation.
- Fulfill Internship or field experience requirements for your major.
- Learn to plan and execute large and small scale campus events.
- Learn to effectively advocate for positive change in sexual assault services and survivor support.
- Become part of a growing movement to end sexual assault at Western Michigan University and in the larger society as a whole.

## **What are Peer Educators Requirements?**

- Sexual Assault Peer Educators are expected to attend weekly meetings.
- Attend our weekend training, which will occur near the start of each semester.
- Become able to present to various audiences within the university.
- Students will also have an opportunity to participate in the planning of campus programming such as Take Back the Night

## **Benefits of Being a FIRE Place Support Staff Member?**

- Build your resume for graduate school and/or employment.
- Earn letters of recommendation.
- Learn to support survivors and friends of survivors of sexual assault and other bias incidents.
- Learn to effectively advocate for positive change in sexual assault services and survivor support.
- Become part of a growing movement to end sexual assault at Western Michigan University and in the larger society as a whole.

## **What are Requirements of a FIRE Place Support Staff Member?**

- Attend all training sessions. (7-10 hours)
- Debrief with supervisor after each encounter with a student in the center.
- Keep all encounters with students in the center private from the public.
- Maintain a working knowledge of all materials in the center.

## **Class Credit/Internship Group Experience**

- This course is designed to increase each student's understanding of the topic of sexual assault, and other issues of dehumanization.
- Students should increase in awareness and learn how to become advocates through several avenues.
- Introduction to and practice with developing an internship project.

## **Receiving Academic Credit for Being a Sexual Assault Peer Educator (SAPE)**

1. Students with certain academic majors and minors may choose to use their work as a SAPE to fulfill a requirement of their major or minor. This arrangement has been approved by certain departments, as indicated below.

2. Other students may need elective credits for their major or minor or need additional credits to graduate, which they can earn from **approved elective courses**. In some cases, SAPE can be used to fulfill an approved elective (see below).

3. If #1 and #2 above do not apply to you but you need and want **general elective credits**, you can get credit for SAPE by enrolling in FCS 590 (1-3 cr.); see below.

If you do this internship for credit, you will need to obtain the appropriate form and approval from the appropriate department (not from the SAPE program). In most cases, the SAPE program coordinator will need to sign it. The completed form is returned to the departmental office, and they register you for the relevant course. The SAPE program coordinator must have a copy of this form as a reminder to submit a grade for you to the department faculty member in charge of the relevant course.

Finally, some students serving as SAPEs do not need or want academic credit for this internship. **You do not need to register for credit to participate in the program.**

### **Following is a list of departments that grant credit for SAPE:**

**This list is not exhaustive and there are many more departments that accept this program for internship, elective credits, independent study and practicum.**

**Any student with any major** may enroll in FCS 590 Special Projects for 1-3 credits and receive credit for SAPE. *Obtain form and approval from FCS administrative office, 3326 Kohrman Hall.*

### ***Psychology Department***

#### **Psychology majors:**

May use to fulfill required 3 credit Practicum; enroll in PSY 397, Specially Arranged Practicum, for 3 credits.

May also use to partially fulfill required 9 hrs. of electives; enroll in PSY 398, Independent Study, for 3 credits.

#### **Psychology minors:**

Department requires 6 hrs. of electives; 3 hours of PSY 397

Practicum can substitute for 3 hrs. of approved electives.

Obtain form from Psych Dept. Undergrad Advising Office or from Psych Dept. website.

## ***Family and Consumer Sciences Department***

### ***Family Studies major with Family Studies emphasis:***

May use to fulfill FCS 202 Field Experience requirement, 2 credit hours.

May use to fulfill requirement for related electives, choose FCS 429 Internship, may register for 2 - 6 credit hours total.

### ***Family Studies major with Child Development emphasis:***

May use to fulfill FCS 202 Field Experience requirement, 2 credit hours.

May use to fulfill required FCS 429 Internship, total 6 credit hours required.

## ***Human Performance and Health Education (HPHE)***

### ***School Health majors and Community Health majors:***

Department requires minimum 4 credit hours of electives from approved list. SAPE may be used for HPER 300 Seminar Series: Health Competencies, 2 credits per semester, 4 total.

## ***Lee Honors College***

Honors College students may choose to receive credit by enrolling in HNRS 399 Field Experience. You may choose to receive up to 3 credits per semester, for 2 semesters.

*Obtain form from Honors College academic advisor.*

## ***College of Education***

*Education majors or minors may choose to receive credit for SAPE by enrolling in ED 398 Special Studies in Education. Check with your academic adviser to learn whether your Education major or minor requires elective credits that ED 398 may be used to fulfill.*

## ***Sociology***

Sociology majors are not required but may *choose* to do an internship for credit; enroll in SOC 4960 (2-3 cr.).

*Obtain form from Dr. Ronald Kramer, Sociology.*

## ***Communication***

Communications majors and minors can get credit for SAPE through COM 398 Independent Study (no more than 3 cr.).

*Obtain form from academic advisor*

## ***Gender and Women's Studies***

Gender and Women's Studies majors or minors may earn 3 credits of internship credit (GWS 4400). Although neither degree requires an internship, GWS 4400 fulfills a 4000-level requirement for the major, and it may count as an elective for the minor. The department's internship application form is available at <http://wmich.edu/gender/internships/>

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Please note that the members of the application selection committee will be the only ones with access to the information you provide and all information will be held in strictest confidence.

### **PERSONAL DATA**

1. Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Last) (First) (Middle Initial)

2. Sex: Female Male Transgender

3. Contact Information:

Local/WMU Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (cell phone preferred): \_\_\_\_\_

Permanent Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

*\*please provide an email address that you regularly check. All members are expected to check email regularly (including during the summer) for important information & updates.*

### **EDUCATION**

1. Class standing: 1<sup>st</sup> year 2<sup>nd</sup> year 3<sup>rd</sup> year 4<sup>th</sup> year 5<sup>th</sup> year Grad. Student

2. Expected graduation date (semester & year): \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Overall GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Major: \_\_\_\_\_ Minor: \_\_\_\_\_ Degree: \_\_\_\_\_

### **PARTICIPATION TYPE**

Please check all the boxes that apply:

General FIRE! Sexual Assault Peer Educator  Class Credit/ Internship   
FIRE Place Support Staff

## REFERENCES

1. Provide the name and contact information for three personal references. Of the three, please include at least **one WMU faculty/staff member** and **one current/former employer**. Do not include relatives.

Name & Title	Relationship	Phone	Email Address
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## PERSONAL INFORMATION

1. Rate yourself from 1-10 (1- low, 10- high) in each area listed below.

Listening skills: \_\_\_\_\_  
Presentation skills: \_\_\_\_\_  
Ability to work in a team setting: \_\_\_\_\_  
Stress management & coping skills: \_\_\_\_\_  
Time management skills: \_\_\_\_\_  
Self-esteem: \_\_\_\_\_  
Assertiveness: \_\_\_\_\_  
Comfort level with topic of sexual assault and aggression: \_\_\_\_\_

2. List your other time commitments and organizations for the term you are applying for i.e. work (approximate number of hours per week), internships, volunteer activities, other RSOs (please indicate level of involvement; i.e. - general member or VP), etc.

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**PLEASE TYPE YOUR ANSWERS TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS AND ATTACH IT TO YOUR COMPLETED APPLICATION.**

1. Why do you want to serve as a peer educator and what attributes would make you a good member of this group?
2. What do you hope to contribute to the program by serving as a peer educator?
3. What do you hope to gain from serving as a member? Do you have any goals for how you would like to grow or skills you would like to work on?
4. Describe your personal weaknesses and how they might affect your role as a peer educator.
5. What are your feelings about attending professional counseling sessions, for yourself and others?
6. Why is an understanding and appreciation for diversity essential to our work as sexual assault peer educators?

**PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS CONSENT**

As a reminder, only members of the peer education selection committee will review information you provide on this application and will do so in confidence.

Please sign below signifying that you have read the application and that you consent to the program requirements.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Print Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Sign Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)