

peer advising

SURF Peer Advisors are available by appointment to assist you with the application process and with communicating your proposal more effectively.

These peer advisors are former SURF students who have received training from the Writing Center.

How to request a peer advisor

To make an appointment with a Peer Advisor, visit the SURF website at http://www.unc.edu/depts/our/students/fellowship_supp/surf.html and scroll down to find the link to the SURF Peer Advisor Request Form. While you're there, make sure to take a look at the Proposal Development resources developed by the Office for Undergraduate Research.

When you request a peer advisor, you will be paired with a student who has received a SURF, has been trained by the Writing Center, and whose field of study roughly matches yours. Your contact information will be exchanged with your peer advisor and the two of you can set up a meeting to work on your proposal.

Why use a peer advisor?

Peer advisors are great resources who have recently been through the same process of constructing a proposal and can ease the proposal development process by:

- (1) **Encouraging** you go over the proposal guidelines and making sure you have an understanding of the application process.
- (2) Helping to **direct** your writing and serve as another **audience** to share ideas with.
- (3) Giving honest **feedback** and constructive **criticism** of your work.

Before meeting with a peer advisor

You should have reviewed all the application **procedures** online, prepared a rough **draft** proposal, and started looking for a **faculty advisor**. You should be able to describe your research proposal idea and the goals of your study. You are encouraged to identify a suitable and willing **faculty**

research advisor for your work as soon as possible. Discuss your initial ideas with your faculty research advisor and narrow or expand the scope of your work as appropriate. The more prepared you are, the more helpful your Peer Advisor can be.

What to expect

Your Peer Advisor may ask you questions about your proposal's argument, organization, clarity, and specificity and offer strategies for improvement. They will most likely read the draft out loud or ask you to read it out loud. They might also help you brainstorm or revise your work. They will not edit or proofread your paper.

Understand that your faculty advisor, not your Peer Advisor, is responsible for assisting in the design of your research study. You should rely on your faculty advisor's expertise in your field of study to guide your research design, and expect your Peer Advisor to assist in structuring your proposal.