

Peer Led Sessions
Engineering Calculus I
MAC 2281 – Fall 2015

What is peer leading? If you are taking Engineering Calculus I, then you will have a weekly peer led guided inquiry session. The goal of these sessions is to improve students' conceptual understanding of the material and communication skills. Calculus classes that use peer leading at USF have been shown to have higher passing rates than those sections which do not.

During the peer led sessions, students will work in groups of 3 or 4 on activities and will be supported by two highly qualified undergraduate students (the peer leaders). Your peer led session is once a week, during your Friday class every week. Attendance at the peer led sessions is mandatory. You will be getting an email and an announcement on Canvas regarding what you need to do for your first peer led session, which will occur the first week of class.

Activities. During your peer led sessions, you will work in your groups on inquiry based activities or homework problems that supplement what you are learning in the classroom. Many of these activities will be exploratory in nature and **may occur before the class lecture on that topic**. You do not need to study the section in your text in advance. Some of the activities are not directly connected to the lecture but may complement your classroom curriculum.

Where can I find the activities? The activity for each week can be found in the Assignments tab on Canvas. Each week, you will need to **download and print** the **whole** activity for that week.

Pre-Assignment. Each activity has a pre-assignment, which will usually be the first page of your activity. **You must complete the pre-assignment before you come to class** and bring your completed work to class. If you do not complete the pre-assignment, you will get a 0 on the quiz (see below).

Printing for free. You can print your activity sheet for free at the Marshall Center with a valid student ID.

Quiz and grade for the peer led session. There is a quiz during the first 5 minutes of each peer led session. This quiz will be based on the pre-assignment. **If you have not completed the pre-assignment before the beginning of your peer led session, you will not be allowed to come into class and take the quiz.** You are welcome to leave the classroom, complete the pre-assignment, return to class and take the quiz in the time remaining. No additional time is allotted for taking the quiz if you are late. If you miss a quiz, you will receive a grade of 0. If a student has a medical or other emergency, he or she must notify Mr. Robert Connelly (rconnell@mail.usf.edu) by email **within 24 hours** of missing the class and must provide written documentation of the emergency upon return to class. Please contact Mr. Connelly by emailing him directly instead of emailing him through the Canvas site. Make sure to include your course and section number in your email. In that case, make-ups might be considered, at the discretion of the instructor or faculty coordinator. The lowest peer led session quiz grade will be dropped.

Note: If your U-number is not bubbled in on the scantron for the quiz, your quiz grade gets recorded as a 0 by the scantron machine, so make sure to both write AND bubble in your name AND U-number. During the session, each group must fill out the entire activity as well as some critical thinking questions relating to the activities, and each member must print his or her name and U-ID on the activity sheet. Your name on this sheet will document your attendance for that peer led session. Each week, you will receive a grade of S (satisfactory) or U (unsatisfactory) on your activity. In order to receive an S, you will need to do the following:

- All questions on the activity must be filled out.
- Names (printed, not signed) and U-numbers must be on the activity report.
- Answers to the critical thinking questions must be fully justified (show all work), written in complete sentences, and correct.

Your quiz grade (out of 6 points) will be recorded on Canvas weekly. At the end of the semester, you will see an activity grade out of 4 points, based on the following rubric:

Number of Satisfactories (S)	Number of Points
10 or more	4/4
8-9	3/4
6-7	2/4
4-5	1/4
0-3	0/4

Make sure to keep your activity reports, in order to have a record of the number of satisfactories you have received in case of discrepancies on Canvas at the end of the semester. Your final grade for peer leading will be out of a total of 10 points, and will consist of the average of your quiz grades (out of 6 points) plus your activity grade as described above. To understand how your peer leading session average counts towards your final grade, check your regular class syllabus.

Questions about grades

Your quiz and activity grades will be posted every week by Mr. Connelly. (You will receive a 1 if you got a “satisfactory”, a 0 if you got an “unsatisfactory”, and a blank entry if you were absent (which will be converted to a 0 at the end of the semester). If you have a question about a quiz or activity grade, you need to email Mr. Connelly within one week of the grade being posted.

Participation and Academic Disruption.

You are expected to fully participate during your peer led sessions. Students who are on their cell phones, having conversations not relevant to the activity, who are disruptive, or who do not work with their groups will receive 0s on their activity reports.

Individual Roles of Group Members during the Peer Led session.

During your peer led sessions, each group member will have a specific role and series of tasks. These roles will rotate every week. The roles are those of **Manager**, **Recorder**, **Spokesperson**, and **Strategy Analyst**. Your peer leaders will give you more information about these roles during your peer led sessions.

Support

Peer Leaders. Your peer leaders will introduce themselves at your first peer led session.

Many of them also tutor in STEM Mart, which is at the SMART lab on the second floor of the library. They will let you know what their hours are. You can also drop in at STEM Mart (for free) and see any of the other tutors as well.

Peer Leading Coordinator. Robert Connelly (rconnell@mail.usf.edu) is a mathematics graduate student who is the peer leading coordinator. He will post weekly announcements and record your peer led session grades on Canvas. If you have any issues with your grades, you can contact Mr. Connelly by email. He will have office hours on T-Th: 12:45–2:15 p.m., in the TA office, rooms 15-17 in the basement of the CMC building. These office hours are open, students are free to come in with or without advanced notice. In the event that Mr. Connelly must leave his office during this time, a note will be left on his desk with the expected return time.

Faculty Support. Dr. Thomas Bieske (tbieske@mail.usf.edu) is the faculty coordinator for your peer led sessions. Please feel free to contact him if you have any questions or concerns about anything related to peer leading. His office is CMC 326, and his office phone number is (813)-974-2655.

Your peer leaders will answer any other questions you have at your first peer led session. Good luck, and have a good semester!