

# GA for Affinity Transitions & Persistence Office of Student Transition Engagement Programs (STEP) Division of Student Affairs

### **Position Overview**

The Graduate Assistant for Affinity Transitions & Persistence, an integral member of the Office of Student Transition Engagement Programs (STEP) and the Campus Living Thematic Area, is responsible for assisting the Assistant Director and Director on retention initiatives and student engagement opportunities that support distinctive population students as they are empowered to participate in the W&M undergraduate experience to become resilient and flourishing individuals.

### **Department Mission**

Our mission is to connect and engage students throughout their W&M transitions with community partners to develop resilient and thriving individuals.

## Position Type

☑ Masters Level□ Doctoral Level

☑ Full-time (20 hours/week)□ Part-time (10 hours/week)

## **Compensation / Benefits**

- This assistantship qualifies a full-time student for the in-state tuition waiver
- For students enrolled in the Higher Education program:
  - Tuition subsidy (student pays \$2,500/year in tuition)
  - \$15,000 stipend (for mid-August to mid-May contract)
  - o \$500 loaded onto student account to for parking pass, meals, or other student expenses
- For non-Higher Education students:
  - School of Education tuition (in-state rate) + \$4,500 stipend (for mid-August to mid-May contract)
  - \$500 loaded onto student account to for parking pass, meals, or other student expenses

#### **Position Elements**

$\boxtimes$	Mostly 9 a.m5 p.m. work	$\boxtimes$	Occasional night/evening work
	Frequent night/evening work	$\boxtimes$	Weekend work: Sometimes
$\boxtimes$	Hires student workers	$\boxtimes$	Supervises / evaluates student workers
$\boxtimes$	Frequent student interaction	$\boxtimes$	Leads training sessions for students
$\boxtimes$	Advises individual students		Advises student organizations
$\boxtimes$	Budget management	$\boxtimes$	Event/program management
	Individual work space	$\boxtimes$	Shared work space
$\boxtimes$	Independent work	$\boxtimes$	Collaborative / group work
$\boxtimes$	Conference/workshop funding available	$\boxtimes$	May take internship at same time as GA
$\boxtimes$	Opportunity for committee work	$\boxtimes$	Opportunity for summer employment

Additional elements:

- Office hours are flexible.
- Night/evening and weekend work required during specific times of the academic year.
- Opportunities exist for regional travel representing the STEP Office and university.

## Job Responsibilities

- Collaborate with various campus and community offices/departments, as well as pertinent distinctive (affinity)
  population recognized student organizations, to provide initiatives and resources for students in transition and, in
  the process, educate STEP student leaders
- Develop and implement transition and persistence communications plan involving newsletters, social media, blog, and hardcopy marketing pieces
- Assist in the creation and implementation of bi-monthly distinctive population programs for affinity populations such as, but not limited to, transfer, third-culture kids, military kids, gap-year, and military veteran students – and during fall/spring New Student Orientation; Family Weekend; Homecoming; and Commencement
- Co-advise and develop onboarding and training curriculum for Initiative Directors (undergraduate student leaders), to include their application, selection, hiring, and training
- Coordinate scheduling and assessment, as well as student attendance at (as appropriate), of signature office events and student initiatives.
- Serve on the First-Year Honor Societies (Alpha Lambda Delta & Phi Eta Sigma) Advising Team
- Participate in divisional activities, including monthly Division meetings and semester Kick-off/Renewal Days
- Supervise undergraduate student worker(s) and manage product tasks
- Supervise, oversee, and attend various campus events
- Other duties as assigned

# Preferred Qualifications

- Ability to collaborate with others while exhibiting a high level of creative energy and flexibility.
- Demonstrated ability and organizational skills to coordinate and manage concurrent processes.
- Experience working with under-represented, distinctive student populations.
- Familiar with core higher education marketing technology, such as social media channels, design programs, and website management.
- Asset if willing to invest in and foster the growth and development of passionate and highly devoted undergraduate student leaders.
- Prior experience with new student orientation; transition programming; event management and/or student activities is strongly preferred.

## Learning Outcomes

- Gain understanding of the Orientation/Transition/Retention functional area within Student Affairs and the greater environment of Higher Education.
- Interact with services and programs across the university landscape to support student success.
- Further develop skillsets that promote college student development, personal/professional task management, and program/event/initiative coordination.
- Gain experience in general human resources processes, team development, and staff supervision.
- Develop self-awareness and connection of personal values to profession goals

# Direct Supervisor

Reagan Ambler Assistant Director, Student Transition Engagement Programs <u>rcollinsambler@wm.edu</u> +1 (757) 221-1431 \*Interested applicants should contact the direct supervisor with any questions.