

Learning for Life (L4L) at Rhode Island College
Graduate Assistant (Full-Time or Part-Time)
Lead Navigator

Learning for Life (L4L) is a research-based, nationally-recognized, student-to-student network of initiatives, designed to seed innovation and collaboration across campus to support underrepresented students to complete college. Through a network of peer Navigators and staff support, L4L weaves a connection between the students we serve, called L4L Scholars, and resources that the college and community can provide them through the development of collaborative relationships. Our results are very promising, as five years of data indicate that L4L Scholars persist at higher rates than the overall RIC population despite facing the most significant obstacles to graduation.

Navigators serve as a key component of the support provided to students through Learning for Life. Lead Navigators are graduate students who, in addition to providing support for a group of L4L Scholars, are matched with a network of up to five Navigators and 100-150 L4L participants to serve as a role model and guide. As part of this work, L4L collaborates with multiple offices on campus to host Lead Navigators for some or part of their time with L4L. The intention is to reach out to students and build stronger relationships with these offices. All L4L Navigators are expected to maintain a professional representation of the L4L mission to all off campus and on campus offices, as well as and most especially with, students served. Lead Navigators will share their knowledge and experience along with taking a leadership role in supporting Scholars and Navigators.

Contribution to Professional Development

The Navigator experience provides students an opportunity to:

- Work in collaboration with peers, staff and faculty as well as community partners
- Develop a global understanding as they interact with students from diverse life experiences including socioeconomic, ethnic and cultural backgrounds, race, gender and sexual identities, ability, etc.
- Practice written and oral communications through documentation, L4L network materials development, and presentations across campus and in the community

The Navigator experience provides leadership development opportunities as students serve as peer mentors and advocates for students we serve in L4L. They have an opportunities to practice skills and competencies inherent in the field of social work and related disciplines, such as establishing professional boundaries, privacy and confidentiality, and ethical principles. As part of the Navigator training, all students complete the Navigator Certificate Program, earning 30 CEUs through RIC Office of Professional Studies and Continuing Education.

Duties and Responsibilities

The following activities are expected of all student navigators who are a part of L4L:

- Outreach to students for participation in L4L
- Provide interested students with an orientation to L4L, explaining policies and services to be provided, and expectations for student participation
- Communicate consistently with Scholars, utilizing a variety of methods (email, phone call, in-person, etc.)
- Plan with students to utilize strengths to address barriers to educational achievement; develop plan with each student and review progress towards objectives
- Make referrals to appropriate services on and off campus; work with on-campus support offices to provide services to students as appropriate

- Advocate for Scholars and teach self-advocacy skills
- Complete all required data and record-keeping is kept up to date for all students they serve, including progress notes, contact sheets, intake questionnaire, etc.
- Communicate with L4L staff and clinical supervisor as issues arise
- Attend and participate in regular supervision and attend monthly staff meetings; MSW students will also participate in weekly supervision.
- Participate in all training offered by the L4L team on various issues facing Scholars
- Attend a campus tour of the different entities on campus that provide resources and support to RIC students
- If special projects arise, participate in these projects with oversight from L4L staff and Lead Navigators.
- Additionally, the following activities are expected of Lead Navigators:
- Lead a network of approximately 5 Navigators and the Scholars they serve, support Navigators in their assistance to students served
- Assist Navigators in the development of intervention plans with their students
- Ensure updated records for assigned Navigator network
- Problem-solving with Navigators as challenges arise
- Follow up with Navigators who are working on special projects
- Maintain the resource binder – an ongoing asset/resource map for student success

Qualifications

- Accepted degree candidate enrolled in plan of study (minimum 6 credits; maximum 9 credits)
- Ability to work both independently and as part of a team, to accept some direction but also be a self-starter
- Background in human services and/or education (preferred but not required)
- Efficient time management skills
- Desire to work with and support college students, as well as collaborate with campus and community organizational partners
- Strong verbal and written skills
- Proficiency in basic computer applications
- Strong respect and desire to support diverse and inclusive communities

How to Apply

Along with the application and resume, candidates should also send a letter describing their qualifications for and interest in the position to L4L Director, Joise Garzon at jgarzon@ric.edu.