

Module 1: Common Peer Educator Traps

1. Enabling

- Trying to take away someone's discomfort with a situation
- Giving solutions to all the little problems, thereby avoiding the bigger problem
- He or she no longer feels uncomfortable, and therefore, no longer has motivation for change

2. Trying to do too much

- Be honest about your time commitments
- Value the other person's issue as important
- Refer to someone who has the time to help

3. Taking on something too big

- Recognize when a situation is beyond your ability to help
- Recognize when certain situations are too complicated for a peer educator to handle alone
- Recognize when it is better to refer to campus or community services

4. Internalizing the issue

- A peer educator translates someone else's problems into their own
- Important to create a mental boundary between a student's issues and your own

5. Incurring liability

- Be aware of the legal liabilities that exist on campus
- If issues are beyond our skills and training, refer people in to professional counselors
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