

Learning for Life (L4L) at Rhode Island College
Food for Thought Pantry Graduate Assistant
(Full-Time) Lead Navigator

Learning for Life (L4L) is a Student Success office that focuses on connecting students to a wide range of resources, services, and opportunities for college success. 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.

The Food 4 Thought pantry was created in 2016 by L4L to help the college combat food insecurity among students. According to a first-of-its-kind survey released in April 2018 by Temple University and Wisconsin HOPE Lab researchers, more than a third of college students surveyed nationally do not get enough to eat. In fall 2019, L4L collaborated with The Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice at Temple University to conduct the #RealCollege Survey at RIC. There were 681 students that participated in the survey. According to the survey results, 40% of respondents experienced food insecurity during the 30 days preceding the survey and within the previous year. During the 2019-2020 academic year, the Food 4 Thought pantry was utilized by 627 (unduplicated) students, 2,204 times. This Graduate position offers direct support to our food pantry operations and the students that utilize the pantry.

Contribution to Professional Development

The Food 4 Thought Graduate Assistant experience provides students an opportunity to:

- Engage in program and event development and implementation
- Support the student workers in the pantry
- Engage in policy development
- 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, policy writing, pantry materials development, and presentations across campus and in the community on food insecurity among college students

Duties and Responsibilities

The Food 4 Thought Graduate Assistant experience provides students an opportunity to:

- Help L4L manage the food pantry
- Make connections with on and off campus resources and organizations to help sustain the pantry
- Facilitate outreach activities as well planning awareness events
- Manage the Food for Thought social media pages
- Manage the distribution of items to on-campus satellite food pantries
- Help oversee the food pantry work-study students
- Assist Navigators in the development of intervention plans with their students struggling with food insecurity
- Support L4L with Food for Thought reports and data management
- Help maintain the L4L Asset Map

Qualifications

- Accepted graduate degree candidate enrolled in plan of study
- 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.