



PUBLIC ACHIEVEMENT

The Public Achievement program (PA) is for DU students interested in working with Denver Public Schools (DPS) to develop their **public skills** by guiding K-12 students through the community organizing process to **work for change** in their schools and communities.

Through the PA program, DU students are paired with a co-coach to work with 10-15 DPS students. DU coaches first work to **build relationships** among the PA team and discuss the **core concepts** of PA: accountability, power, politics, public work, citizenship, democracy, freedom, public and diversity. When students and coaches understand where each other are coming from and the core concepts, they are then ready to select a **community issue** that affects them and they are passionate about. Once an issue is chosen, the PA team creates, conducts and interprets a **community-based research** project. The final step in PA is creating a **public tangible product** which is the result of what they learned in the research and addresses their community issue.

While the end goal of PA is to have a successful project, it is also about the process. PA challenges DU and DPS students to critically question community issues and work with others to tackle the issues. Throughout the process coaches and students build strong and meaningful relationships with students that often last after PA is completed. Inherent in the PA structure is also an emphasis on higher education through discussions of goals, the college experience and campus visits.

Student Benefits

- Receive training in the PA process and in working with K-12 students.
- Work with a community of committed DU students in Denver Public Schools.
- Gain experience for a career in education.
- Develop public skills to work with key stakeholders in DPS and the broader community.
- Build meaningful relationships with K-12 students and community members.

Program Expectations

Coaches will:

- Commit 5-10 hours to PA each week.
- Be present at each PA day (mostly Friday's) that DU and DPS are in session.
- Work with co-coaches to create a lesson plan for each session.
- Become well-versed in the issue that their PA team selects.
- Participate in monthly PA trainings throughout the year.

Selection Criteria

Students must have:

- A passion to work with K-12 students.
- An interest in education.
- Willingness and flexibility to work with students, teachers, administration and community partners.

Earn Money!

- Use your federal work-study money to get paid by becoming a part of our PA program.
- Students can receive funding for their involvement in PA through the AmeriCorps UCAN Serve Program.