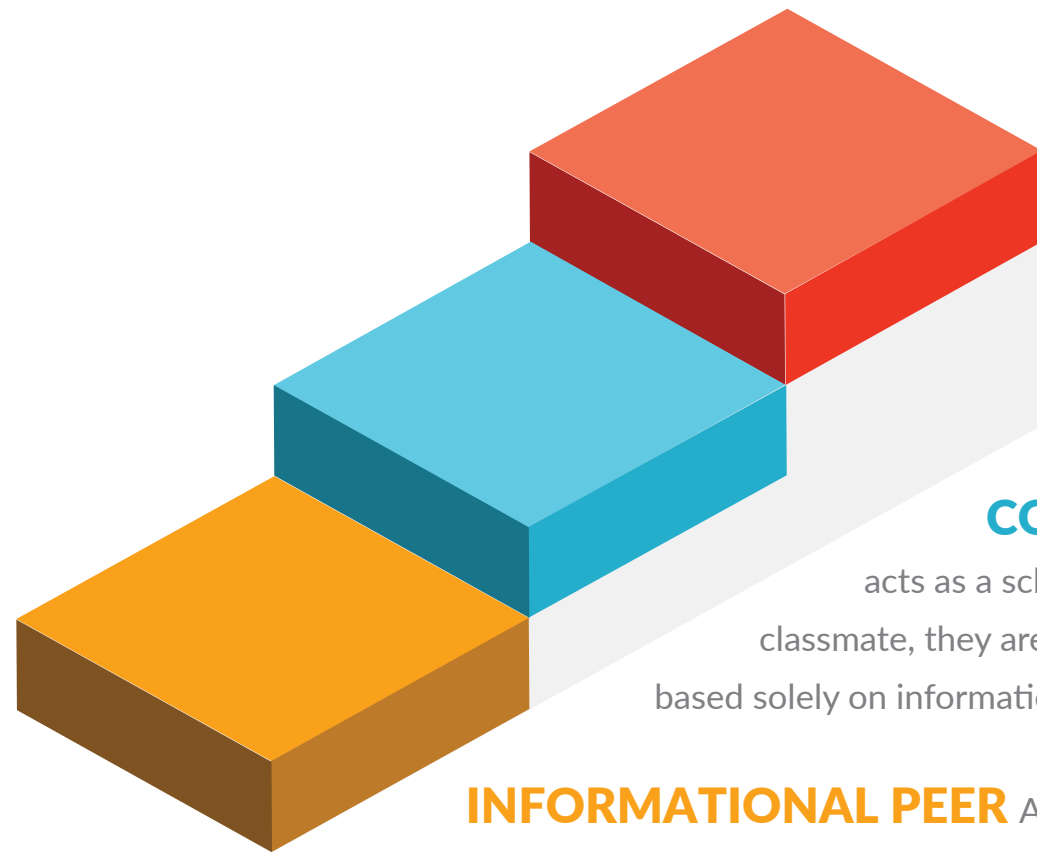


TYPES OF STUDENT FRIENDSHIPS

The type of connection that is forged between students can vary from simply sharing information with each other in the classroom to being friends outside of the college classroom.



SPECIAL PEER A special peer is considered to be a classmate who is also a friend outside school.¹ Students enrolled in a course with all special peers reported a higher level of classroom connectedness than students enrolled in a course with both information peers and special peers.²

COLLEGIAL PEER A collegial peer is considered to be a classmate who also acts as a school-based friend.¹ When students report at least one quality relationship with a classmate, they are more connected to the class as a whole than with students with relationships based solely on information.²

INFORMATIONAL PEER An information peer is considered to be an acquaintance with whom communication is focused on the exchange of school-related information.¹ Students enrolled in a course with information peers reported the lowest levels of classroom connectedness.²



1) Kram, K. E., & Isabella, L. A. (1985). Mentoring alternatives: The role of peer relationships in career development. *Academy of management Journal*, 28(1), 110-132.

2) Sollitto, M., Johnson, Z. D., & Myers, S. A. (2013). Students' perceptions of college classroom connectedness, assimilation, and peer relationships. *Communication Education*, 62(3), 318-331. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/03634523.2013.788726>