



ACE ANNUAL REPORT 2013-2014

Summer 2013 - Fall 2013 - Spring 2014

Academic Center for Excellence (ACE)

Our mission is to help the diverse population of undergraduate students at Florida State University develop the study skills and personal success habits that enhance learning and encourage the highest level of scholarship and academic achievement. We are committed to working with the university community to promote a culture of academic success, with the shared mission of helping students earn a college degree and develop effective lifelong learning skills.

Vision Statement

The Academic Center for Excellence strives to be a university learning center that is recognized locally and nationally for providing the highest level of service and programs to the diverse undergraduate student population of Florida State University.

Academic Center for Excellence – Student Contacts (2013-2014)	
Program/Service	# of Student Contacts
Tutoring	14,520
Study Rooms	25,716
Credit Course Enrollments (SLS1122 & SLS3717)	472
Individual Student Success Plan Meetings for SLS1122	854
37 ACE Workshops	317
45 Invited Presentations for Students/Organizations	2,618
Personal Academic Consultations	64
42 ACE Orientation Presentations	9,420
Total	53,981

ACE PROGRAMS

Credit Courses

SLS1122 - Strategies for Academic Success

This one-credit course is designed to facilitate academic success and promote retention and graduation of students. The focus is on the development and application of college-level study skills, personal success strategies, and the use of campus resources that enhance individual student achievement. The course is taught using a combination of classroom lecture and discussion, small group activities, ongoing personal reflection, independent readings and assignments, and individual meetings with the instructor. Any undergraduate student may register for this course as an elective. Freshmen who earn less than a 2.0 GPA at FSU are required to take the course. Accomplishments during the 2013-2014 academic year include:

- The ACE faculty and adjunct instructors taught 455 students in 25 sections of SLS1122. Most of these students (73%) were mandated to take the course.
- The ACE faculty and adjunct instructors completed 854 individual meetings with enrolled students.
- By the end of Spring 2014, 64% of all students completing the course in 2013-14 were in good academic standing and 61% of the mandated freshmen were in good academic standing.
- Among all course completers, 91% gave their SLS1122 instructor a rating of 'Excellent' or 'Very Good' on the SPCI evaluation form (81% response rate).

SLS3717 - Peer Tutoring

This one-credit course is designed as a learning opportunity for any student interested in exposure to issues regarding targeted learning assistance. This course provides training in various areas related to peer tutoring for both group and individual tutoring and is applicable across disciplines. Course content is analyzed through the exploration of contemporary theory, group activities, readings, lectures, class discussions, and online assignments. Critical inquiry, tutoring 'best practices,' and service learning play important roles throughout the semester.

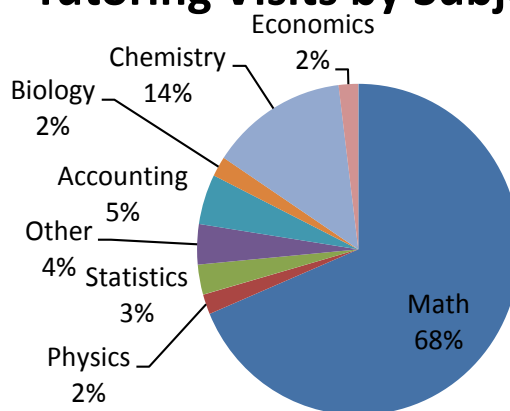
During the Fall 2013 semester, 17 students completed the course, providing 425 service learning hours of volunteer peer tutoring in a wide range of subject areas, including mathematics, biology, chemistry, accounting, and economics.

Tutoring

Peer tutoring is a process that supports student learning by strengthening a wide variety of educational skills. Working with a tutor can help students make the most of their study time while providing an enhanced understanding of potentially difficult subject matter.

ACE peer tutors completed a total of 14,520 student visits (974 in Summer 2013; 7,411 in Fall 2013; and 6,135 in Spring 2014).

Tutoring Visits by Subject Area



Technology and Facilities

- 12,129 students used the desktop computers in the ACE Learning Studio.
- 1,981 students used the Learning Studio for quiet study time.
- 7,825 individuals checked out study rooms, serving 25,716 students total.
- 2,221 students checked out a laptop.
- 996 students checked out an iPad.
- 377 students checked out EnoBoard equipment.
- 157 students checked out a technology adapter.



Workshops & Invited Presentations

ACE offers free workshops on topics that are critical to academic success. The workshops are designed to provide students with an interactive opportunity to learn about and develop the academic skills and personal attributes needed to be successful at the college level. During the 2013-14 academic year, ACE provided 37 individual workshops and 45 invited presentations for campus organizations, reaching a total of 2,935 students.

Student Satisfaction and Impact

- 94.2% of workshop participants 'Strongly Agree' or 'Agree' that they will be able to use what they learned in the workshop.
- 97.3% of workshop participants 'Strongly Agree' or 'Agree' that the workshop met their expectations.

Robert D. Brooks Academic Achievement Award

Courtney Penton received the award in Fall 2013, the second year in which it was offered. Courtney's goal is to become a high school English teacher. Courtney states, "Taking Strategies for Academic Success completely changed me and my demeanor towards school and it impacted my life in such a positive way." The Robert D. Brooks Academic Achievement Award is given annually to a student who completes SLS1122 and goes on to demonstrate academic success.



ACE Workshops & Presentations Student Participation 2013-2014	
Workshop Title	Total Participants
How to Get Control of Your Time	43
Get Ready for the LSAT	50
Why Graduate School?	34
Making Notes (not taking them!)	56
Graduate School: To Go or Not to Go	18
Get Ready for the GMAT	6
Strategies for Test Preparation	40
Get Ready for the GRE	35
How to Get the BEST Letter of Recommendation	30
There's an App for That: High Tech Learning	5
Total	317

Personal Academic Consultations (PACs)

ACE offers students an opportunity to meet with an ACE faculty member to review and make improvements to their study and personal success habits. These consultations involve assessing a student's needs and developing a plan of action for reaching the student's academic goals. Topics covered include time management, learning styles and memory, reading strategies, and general study skills. ACE faculty completed 64 PACs.

CAMPUS IMPACT

ACE monitors a variety of surveys and benchmark indicators to assess impact of campus-wide initiatives related to student success and retention:

FSU provides the support you need to help you succeed academically (NSSE).

First-year students responding 'very much' or 'quite a bit' increased from 70% in 2005 to 88% in 2011.

The University provides adequate support for students having academic difficulty (USI).

All students responding 'strongly agree' or 'agree' increased from 48% in 2004 to 90% in 2013.

The first year retention rate at FSU increased from 89% in 2004 to 93% in 2011, latest verified figures.



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- ACE co-hosted the inaugural statewide conference of the Florida College Learning Center Association (FCLCA) in April 2014. FCLCA is the first state affiliate of the National College Learning Center Association.
- Dr. Lisa Liseno presented at the Teaching Academic Survival and Success Conference. Dr. Patricia Golay presented at the FCLCA Conference.
- FSU Student Government Association donated \$1,658 for free coffee and snacks during the final two weeks of the Spring 2014 semester. We served approximately 3,600 cups of coffee, 1,452 granola bars, and 274 pounds of apples.
- The ACE Faculty Outreach Committee hosted two meetings of our new Faculty Liaisons, including 11 representatives in disciplines across campus.
- Holly Hunt and Dr. Lisa Liseno completed Pre-Law Advisor Training and presented workshops in addition to working with individual students in graduate school planning and preparation.
- The ACE at University Center A faculty and staff moved to a third floor suite (A3600) that is collocated with the Office of Undergraduate Studies for more effective referrals and collaboration between units.

Ace Faculty Liaisons

In Fall 2013, ACE appointed Faculty Liaisons in order to enhance departmental connections between ACE and the campus community.

Members:

- Dr. Betsy Becker, Education
- Ms. Annette Blackwelder, Mathematics
- Dr. Joe Calhoun, Economics
- Dr. Robyn Cope, Graduate School
- Dr. Cindy Lewis, Nursing
- Dr. Pedro Schlottmann, Physics
- Dr. Trisha Terebelski, Biology
- Ms. Holly Sudano, Business/Accounting
- Dr. Deborah Coxwell-Teague, English
- Ms. Eve Wettstein, Adult Learning Evaluation Center
- Dr. Martha Wisbey, Student Disability Resource Center