



# ACE Annual Report

## 2015 - 2016

### Summer 2015 - Fall 2015 - Spring 2016

#### 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 (2015-2016)	
<i>Program/Service</i>	<i># of Student Contacts</i>
Tutoring	17,443
Peer Assisted Study Sessions (PASS) - MAC1105, MAC1114, ACG2021	397
Learning Studio Study Room Use	26,726
Learning Studio Computers/Open Study Area Use	9,894
Learning Studio Technology Use (laptops, iPads, eno, projectors)	2,116
Credit Course Enrollments (SLS1122 )	441
ACE Academic Workshops	272
Invited Presentations for Students/Organizations	2,523
Personal Academic Consultations	114
ACE Orientation Presentations	9,392
<b>Total</b>	<b>69,318</b>

# ACE Programs

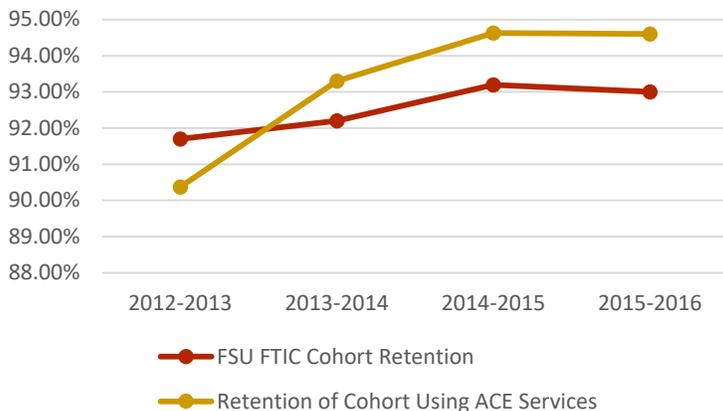
## Credit Courses

### 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 2015-2016 academic year include:

- The ACE faculty and adjunct instructors taught 441 students in 24 sections of SLS1122. Most of these students (83%) were mandated to take the course.
- The ACE faculty and adjunct instructors completed 772 individual meetings with enrolled students.
- By the end of Spring 2016, 66% of all students completing the course in 2015-16 were in good academic standing and 61% of the mandated students were in good academic standing.
- Among all course completers, 96% gave their SLS1122 instructor a rating of 'Excellent' or 'Very Good' on the SPCI evaluation form (71% response rate).

### ACE Learning Studio - Cohort Retention

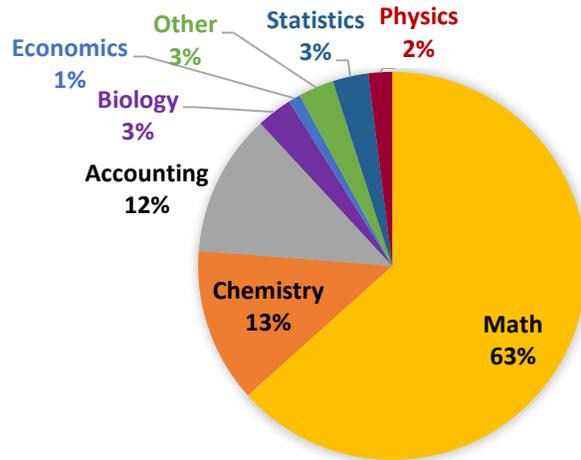


## Tutoring

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 17,443 student visits (898 in Summer 2015; 8,227 in Fall 2015; and 8,318 in Spring 2016).

### TUTORING VISITS BY SUBJECT AREA



## Peer Assisted Study Sessions

Peer Assisted Study Sessions (PASS), also known nationally as Supplemental Instruction (SI), is a program implemented in Spring 2015 which targets historically difficult courses at FSU by implementation of frequent group study sessions focused on the most challenging content of the course. At the ACE Learning Studio, our PASS program provides undergraduate students the unique opportunity to voluntarily meet twice weekly for group sessions led by trained undergraduate student PASS Leaders who are knowledgeable about course material. PASS Leaders facilitate the group study sessions by embedding hands-on practice of *how to learn* into learning activities centered on *what to learn*. Group sessions focus on learning difficult concepts from the lecture and practicing problems. In 2015-16, PASS sessions were available in ACG 2021 and MAC 1105. Students who attended PASS sessions more than once throughout the semester have performed better on tests and earned higher final grades in the class.

## 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 2015-16 academic year, ACE provided 37 individual workshops and 45 invited presentations for campus organizations, reaching a total of 2,795 students.

### Student Satisfaction and Impact

- 96.1% of workshop participants 'Strongly Agree' or 'Agree' that they will be able to use what they learned in the workshop.
- 89.2% of workshop participants 'Strongly Agree' or 'Agree' that the workshop met their expectations.

ACE Workshops & Presentations 2015-2016	
Workshop Title	Participants
Connect, Learn, Socialize! How to Put Together a Successful Study Group	6
Get Ready for the GMAT	7
Get Ready for the GRE	37
Get Ready for the LSAT	38
How to Get Control of Your Time	47
How to Get the BEST Letter of Recommendation	13
Making Notes (not taking them!)	35
Strategies for Test Preparation	47
Why Graduate School?	12
WLTM: The ABC's of Communicating with Your Professors	6
Writing a Personal Statement [for Graduate School and Scholarships]	24
<b>Total</b>	<b>272</b>

### 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 strategies and memory, reading strategies, and general study skills. ACE faculty completed 114 PACs.

## Robert D. Brooks Academic Achievement Award



The 2015 Robert D. Brooks Academic Achievement Award was presented to Ian Applebaum this fall. Ian states, "I am convinced that it [the SLS1122 class] not only taught me how to organize my school work, but also helped me to organize my life." Ian is a Hospitality Management major who spent the summer interning at the Ritz Carlton on Amelia Island. The Robert D. Brooks Academic Achievement Award (\$250) is given annually to a student who completes SLS1122 and goes on to demonstrate continued academic success.



### ACE Ambassador Program

The ACE Ambassador Program is a mentoring program designed to inspire students who have taken SLS1122 to promote the services of the Academic Center for Excellence to all students and support them in improving their learning skills. ACE ambassadors are supervised by an ACE faculty member. Each ambassador attends at least two ACE events during the fall and/or spring semesters and at least one SLS1122 class meeting in a mentoring capacity. Some examples of events are tabling, where the ambassador passes out literature and interacts with students; a study skills workshop where the ambassador acts as a learning assistant; or Preview, where newly admitted students and their parents attend visiting days. ACE ambassadors are required to attend short monthly meetings to discuss their events and debrief. In addition to the ambassador training, these student mentors also participate in leadership training through the Center for Leadership and Social Change.

# 2015-2016 Highlights

- The ACE Learning Studio partnered with FSU's Student Government Association (SGA) to provide healthy snacks and coffee to students during the last two weeks of the fall and spring semesters. With SGA's funding support, ACE Learning Studio staff also provided students with highlighter pens to enhance their note making strategies.
- Dr. Patricia Golay was promoted to Teaching Faculty III in recognition of her superior performance and service to students, the Division, and the University.
- Holly Hunt, Teaching Faculty II, was awarded professional development leave, completed during Summer 2016. Her research is centered on student veterans' decision-making and is a part of her dissertation in progress.
- ACE faculty and staff advised 45 high school students who enrolled in FSU's high school dual enrollment program throughout the year.
- ACE Faculty Liaisons serve as departmental connections between ACE and the campus community. Two meetings were held during the 2015-2016 year. Many thanks to these individuals who continue to champion our services:
  - Annette Blackwelder, Mathematics
  - Charmane Caldwell, Engineering
  - Joe Calhoun, Economics
  - Shelley Ducatt, Student Disability Resource Center
  - Carlos Gomez, Counseling Center
  - Mark Kearley, Chemistry
  - Lisa Liseno, The Graduate School
  - Stephen McElroy, English
  - Sherry Southerland, FSU Teach
  - Holly Sudano, Business/Accounting
  - Trisha Terebelski, Biology
  - Jeannine Turner, Education
  - Eve Wettstein, Adult Learning Evaluation Center

## ACE Faculty & Staff



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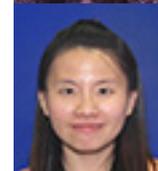
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