



ACE Annual Report

2012 - 2013

Summer 2012 - Fall 2012 - Spring 2013

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 (2012-2013)

Program/Service	# of Student Contacts
Tutoring	16,982
Study Rooms	24,637
Credit Course Enrollments (SLS1122 & SLS3717)	513
Individual Student Success Plan Meetings for SLS1122	815
39 ACE Workshops	502
43 Invited Presentations for Students/Organizations	1,506
Personal Academic Consultations	75
34 ACE Orientation Presentations	9,217
Total	54,247

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 2012-2013 academic year include:

- The ACE faculty and adjunct instructors taught 493 students in 26 sections of SLS1122. Most of these students (78%) were mandated to take the course.
- The ACE faculty and adjunct instructors completed 815 individual meetings with students enrolled in the course.
- By the end of Spring 2013, 66% of all students completing the course in 2012-13 were in good academic standing and 55% of the mandated freshmen were in good academic standing.
- Among all course completers, 96% gave their SLS1122 instructor a rating of 'Excellent' or 'Very Good' on the SUSSAI evaluation form (81% response rate).

SLS3717 - Peer Tutoring

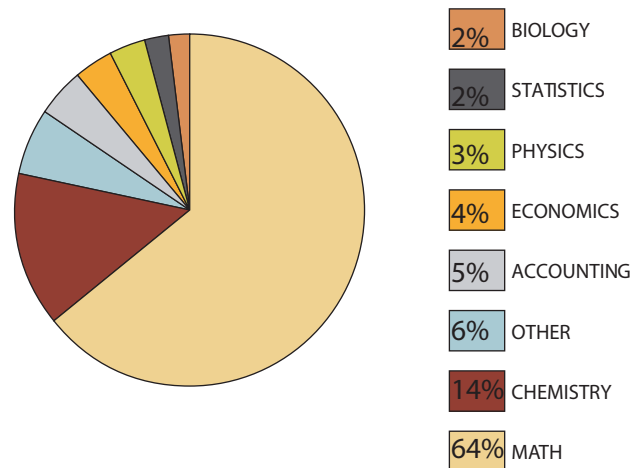
This one-credit course is designed as a learning opportunity for any student interested in exposure to issues regarding targeted learning assistance. This course provides training in various areas related to peer tutoring for both group and individual tutoring and is applicable across disciplines. Course 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 2012 semester, 20 students completed the course, providing 500 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 16,982 student visits (1,340 in Summer 2012; 8,819 in Fall 2012; and 6,823 in Spring 2013).



Student Satisfaction and Impact

- 90% of students reported that their appointment based tutoring was 'Very Helpful' or 'Somewhat Helpful'.
- 94% of students reported that they were 'Very Satisfied' or 'Satisfied' with their check-out of a study room or technology.
- Students report a grade improvement of .65 and .69 GPA points for appointment based tutoring (all subjects) and drop-in math tutoring, respectively.

Sample Comments on Tutor Evaluations

- "Extremely helpful service!"
- "[Tutoring] helped me to learn through different methods."
- "ACE has a great setup, with open availability."

Workshops & Presentations

ACE offers workshops on topics that are critical to academic success. The programs 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. All workshops are free. During the 2012-13 academic year, 39 individual workshops were offered.

Student Satisfaction and Impact

- 95.6% of workshop participants 'Strongly Agree' or 'Agree' that they will be able to use what they learned in the workshop.
- 88.7% of workshop participants 'Strongly Agree' or 'Agree' that the workshop met their expectations.

Robert D. Brooks Academic

Achievement Award

Sean Santalla received the award in Fall 2012, the first year in which it was offered. Sean has since earned a master's degree at FSU in Urban and Regional Planning. Sean states, "I honestly do not believe that I would have had the motivation or ability to enter this program without having taken SLS1122." 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 2012-2013	
Workshop Title (# of offerings)	Total Participants
How to Get Control of Your Time (6)	51
Get Ready for the LSAT (4)	60
Students Tackling Academic Recovery (2)	1
Making Notes (not taking them!) (6)	46
Graduate School: To Go or Not to Go (3)	51
Get Ready for the GMAT (2)	10
Strategies for Test Preparation (6)	103
Get Ready for the GRE (4)	119
How to Get the BEST Letter of Recommendation (4)	57
There's an App for That: High Tech Learning (1)	1
Undergraduate Research & National Fellowships: Getting Started (1)	3
Total (39)	502

Personal Academic Consultations (PACs)

ACE offers students an opportunity to meet with an ACE instructor 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 75 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 2010, latest verified figures.



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- ACE.fsu.edu received 46,892 unique visitors (54% more than last year), viewing 103,673 internal web pages.
- The ACE Learning Studio grew a substantial social media presence during 2012-2013. Facebook 'likes' increased from 262 in February 2012 to 2,885 by the end of Spring 2013.
- We completed our second year of operations in the ACE Learning Studio in the William Johnston Building (WJB), which includes two tutoring areas (ACE Appointments and Math Walk-in Tutoring), 16 high-tech study rooms, check-out of laptops/iPads, computers and printers, and lots of open study space.
- The tutor training program developed by ACE and the Campus Tutoring Cooperative was awarded renewal of "Level I Certification" by the College Reading and Learning Association (CRLA), an internationally recognized benchmark of quality.
- Four ACE staff members presented at national conferences on topics related to learning assistance and two presented at a regional conference.
- Dr. Patricia Golay was awarded a Transformation Through Teaching Award by the FSU Spiritual Life Project.
- FSU Student Government Association donated \$1,658 for free coffee and snacks during the final two weeks of the Spring 2013 semester. We served 3,800 cups of coffee, 1,392 granola bars, and 290 pounds of apples.
- An online tutoring pilot was initiated during Summer 2012 in MAC1105, College Algebra. The pilot continued through Fall 2012.
- ACE initiated academic consultations for students via appointments and walk-in traffic during extended and evening hours at the ACE Learning Studio.
- Assisted with the development of SLS3407, Strategies for Veteran Success, in support of service members making the transition to FSU.