



# ACE Annual Report

## 2014 - 2015

### Summer 2014 - Fall 2014 - Spring 2015

#### 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 (2014-2015)

Program/Service	# of Student Contacts
Tutoring	16,262
Study Rooms	25,548
Open Study Space in Learning Studio	9,003
Credit Course Enrollments (SLS1122 & SLS3717)	496
Individual Student Success Plan Meetings for SLS1122	897
33 ACE Workshops	298
37 Invited Presentations for Students/Organizations	3,225
Personal Academic Consultations	63
34 ACE Orientation Presentations	9,343
<b>Total</b>	<b>65,135</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 12-week 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 2014-2015 academic year include:

- The ACE faculty and adjunct instructors taught 477 students in 23 sections of SLS1122. Most of these students (75%) were mandated to take the course.
- The ACE faculty and adjunct instructors completed 897 individual meetings with enrolled students.
- By the end of Spring 2015, 63% of all students completing the course in 2014-15 were in good academic standing and 56% of the mandated freshmen were in good academic standing.
- Among all course completers, 94% gave their SLS1122 instructor a rating of 'Excellent' or 'Very Good' on the SPCI evaluation form (80% 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.

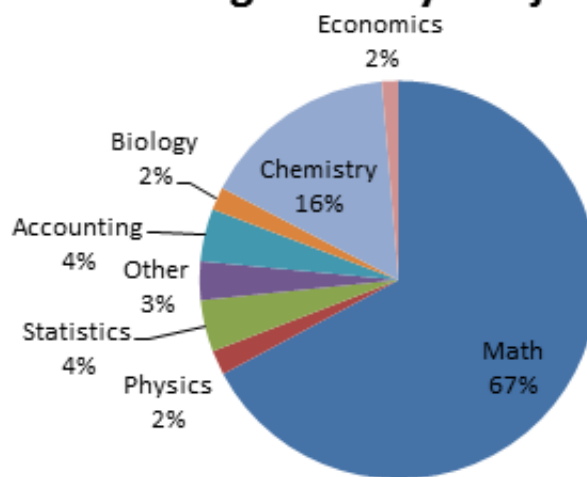
During the Fall 2014 semester, 19 students completed the course, providing 475 service-learning hours of volunteer peer tutoring in a wide range of subject areas, including mathematics, biology, chemistry, accounting, and economics.

## 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 16,262 student visits (842 in Summer 2014; 7,723 in Fall 2014; and 7,697 in Spring 2015).

### Tutoring Visits by Subject Area



## Technology and Facilities

- 9,003 students used the desktop computers in the ACE Learning Studio or used the open space for quiet study time.
- 7,938 individuals checked out study rooms, serving 25,548 students total.
- 1,533 students checked out a laptop.
- 699 students checked out an iPad.
- 259 students checked out EnoBoard equipment.
- 180 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 2014-15 academic year, ACE provided 33 individual workshops and 37 invited presentations for campus organizations, reaching a total of 3,523 students.

### Student Satisfaction and Impact

- 96% of workshop participants 'Strongly Agree' or 'Agree' that they will be able to use what they learned in the workshop.
- 92% of workshop participants 'Strongly Agree' or 'Agree' that the workshop met their expectations.

## Robert D. Brooks Academic Achievement Award

Faith Crowe received the award in Fall 2014, the third year in which it was offered. Faith plans to pursue a career that allows her to instruct, support, and provide services to students who are blind or who have low vision. Faith states, "I would have never been able to become the student and person I am today without having taken SLS 1122." The Robert D. Brooks Academic Achievement Award is given annually to a student who completes SLS1122 and goes on to demonstrate academic success.

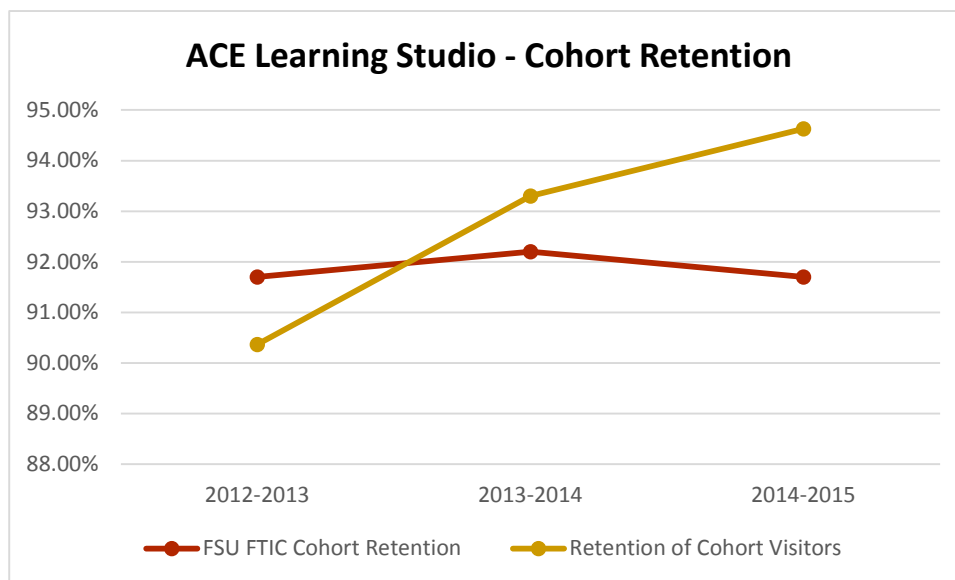


ACE Workshops & Presentations 2014-2015	
Workshop Title	Participants
Get Ready for the GMAT	5
Get Ready for the GRE	46
Get Ready for the LSAT	42
How to Get Control of Your Time	58
How to Get the BEST Letter of Recommendation	36
Making Notes (not taking them!)	29
Strategies for Test Preparation	40
Why Graduate School?	3
Writing a Personal Statement [for Graduate School and Scholarships]	39
<b>Total</b>	<b>298</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 styles and memory, reading strategies, and general study skills. ACE faculty completed 63 PACs.

## Campus Impact



# 2014-2015 Highlights

- The ACE Learning Studio partnered with Phi Eta Sigma to provide free coffee to students during the final two weeks of the Fall 2014 semester. FSU Student Government Association donated \$1,658 for free coffee and snacks at the Learning Studio during the final two weeks of the Spring 2015 semester.
- The ACE Learning Studio piloted Peer Assisted Study Sessions (PASS) with students in one section of MAC1105 in Spring 2015. Students attending PASS 3 or more times in the semester scored an average of 10 percent higher on each of the three tests given during the semester.
- ACE has taken on responsibility for the administration of FSU's high school dual enrollment program, which involves advising high school students, enrolling them in classes, and providing support to them throughout the semester.
- ACE provided 6 hours of tutoring per week in 3 different residence halls during Spring 2015.
- The ACE Facebook page reaches 6,227 individuals with frequent posts about academic support available.
- ACE Faculty Liaisons serve as departmental connections between ACE and the campus community. Two meetings were held during the 2014-2015 year.
  - Dr. Betsy Becker, Education
  - Ms. Annette Blackwelder, Mathematics
  - Dr. Joe Calhoun, Economics
  - Dr. Deborah Coxwell-Teague, English
  - Dr. Cindy Lewis, Nursing
  - Dr. Lisa Lisenon, The Graduate School
  - Dr. Pedro Schlottmann, Physics
  - Dr. Trisha Terebelski, Biology
  - Ms. Holly Sudano, Business/Accounting
  - Ms. Eve Wettstein, Adult Learning Evaluation Center

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