



ACE Annual Report

2016 - 2017

Summer 2016 - Fall 2016 - Spring 2017

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 (2016-2017)	
<i>Program/Service</i>	<i># of Student Contacts</i>
Tutoring	14,675
Peer Assisted Study Sessions (PASS) - ACG2021, BSC2010, CHM1045, CHM1046, MAC1105	2,592
Learning Studio Study Room Use	18,347
Learning Studio Computers/Open Study Area Use	5,358
Learning Studio Technology Use (laptops, iPads, eno, projectors)	1,421
Credit Course Enrollments (SLS1122)	469
ACE Academic Workshops	334
Invited Presentations for Students/Organizations	1,820
Personal Academic Consultations	91
ACE Orientation Presentations	10,682
Total	58,381

ACE Programs

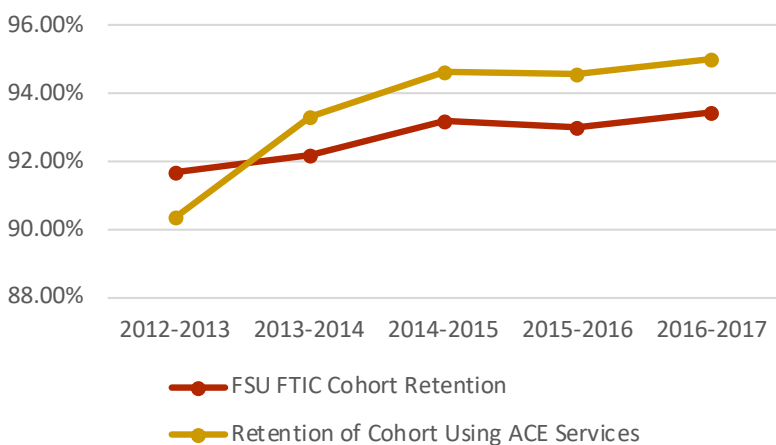
Credit Courses

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 2016-2017 academic year include:

- The ACE faculty and adjunct instructors taught 469 students in 24 sections of SLS1122. Most of these students (83%) were mandated to take the course.
- By the end of Spring 2017, 67% of the mandated students were in good academic standing.
- Among 2016 cohort members mandated and enrolled in SLS1122 in the 2016 academic year, 72% were retained to the sophomore year.
- Among all course completers, 95% gave their SLS1122 instructor a rating of 'Excellent' or 'Very Good' on the SPCI evaluation form (80% response rate).

ACE Learning Studio - Cohort Retention

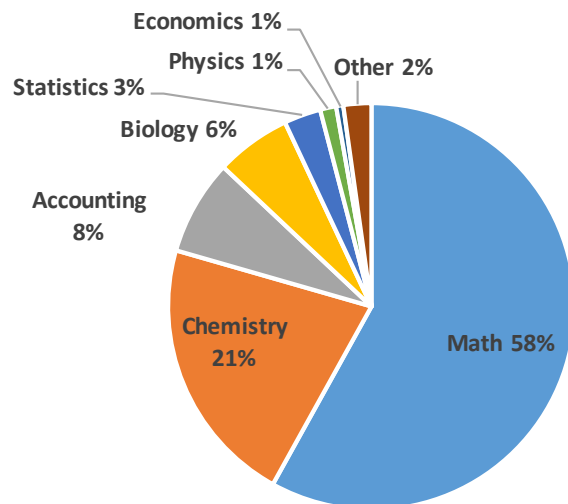


Tutoring

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 17,267 student visits (517 in Summer 2016; 9,428 in Fall 2016; and 7,322 in Spring 2017).

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 2016-2017, PASS sessions were available in ACG2021, BSC2010, CHM1045, CHM1046, and MAC1105. Students who attended three or more PASS sessions 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 2016-2017 academic year, ACE provided 38 individual workshops and 26 presentations for students and various departments, reaching a total of 1,820 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.
- 89% of workshop participants 'Strongly Agree' or 'Agree' that the workshop met their expectations.

ACE Workshops & Presentations 2016-2017	
Workshop Title	Participants
Connect, Learn, Socialize! How to Put Together a Successful Study Group	4
Get Ready for the GMAT	4
Get Ready for the GRE	75
Get Ready for the LSAT	33
How to Get Control of Your Time	55
How to Get the BEST Letter of Recommendation	21
Making Notes (not taking them!)	40
Strategies for Test Preparation	35
Why Graduate School?	23
WLTM: The ABC's of Communicating with Your Professors	11
Writing a Personal Statement [for Graduate School and Scholarships]	33
Total	334

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 91 PACs.

Robert D. Brooks Academic Achievement Award



The 2016 Robert D. Brooks Academic Achievement Award was presented to Emma Silbert. Emma states, "SLS1122 turned out to be one of my very favorite, and most impactful classes I have ever taken here at FSU. It was a turning point in my college experience and imparted so much wisdom on me that I will not only use for the rest of my life, but hope to in turn give to my future students." Emma is an Elementary Education major who hopes to impact many lives as an elementary school teacher and eventually work her way to being a principal. 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.

2016-2017 Highlights

- ACE received \$500 from SGA Student Senate to provide healthy snacks and coffee to students during the last week of the spring semester.
- Dr. Patricia Golay participated in the inaugural gathering of the first Faculty of Color Writing Collective sponsored by the Office of the Provost at Florida State University. Participants spent twelve weeks during spring semester working on individual writing projects and were awarded stipends for continued research, related travel, and conference participation.
- The ACE High School Dual Enrollment team (Sara Hamon, Holly Hunt, Angela Hockin, and Christina Pater) received a Prudential Productivity Award from Florida TaxWatch for their work on reengineering the high school dual enrollment process.
- Todd Rakes completed the Advance Leadership Development Program in March 2017.
- In Fall 2016, Dr. Patricia Golay was selected to participate in a 3-day Train-the-Trainer Seminar hosted by the National Coalition Building Institute (NCBI), an international non-profit leadership development network dedicated to the elimination of racism and other forms of oppression. Dr. Golay now provides training on the NCBI model to members of the campus community and serves as a member of the University's Diversity and Inclusion Critical Response Team.
- ACE received funding support of \$7,213.02 from the Student Technology Fee Advisory Committee to enhance instructional technology resources for students.
- ACE faculty and staff advised 44 high-achieving students, from Leon and Wakulla counties, who enrolled in FSU's high school dual enrollment program throughout the year for a total of 513 credit hours.
- Todd Rakes was elected to serve a two-year term as Treasurer of the Florida College Learning Center Association.

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