



# ACE Annual Report

## 2017 - 2018

### Summer 2017 - Fall 2017 - Spring 2018

#### 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 (2017-2018)**

<i>Program/Service</i>	<i># of Student Contacts</i>
Tutoring	15,564
Peer Assisted Study Sessions (PASS) - ACG2021, ACG2071, BSC2010, CHM1045, CHM2210, PHY2048C	2,939
Learning Studio Seminar and Study Rooms Use	18,831
Learning Studio Computers/Open Study Area Use	2,339
Learning Studio Technology Use (laptops, iPads, eno, projectors)	680
Credit Course Enrollments (SLS1122)	411
ACE Academic Workshops	231
Invited Presentations for Students/Organizations	1,896
Personal Academic Consultations	95
ACE Orientation Presentations	9,866
<b>Total</b>	<b>52,852</b>

## Credit Courses

### SLS1122 - Strategies for Academic Success

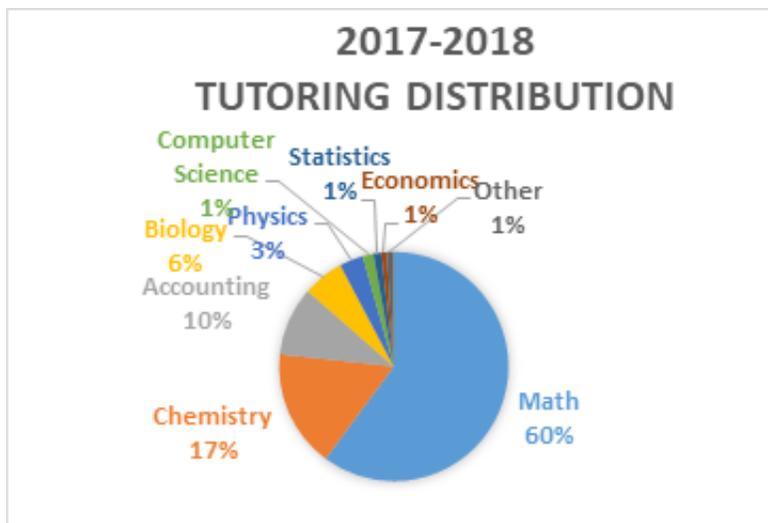
This one-credit course is designed to facilitate academic success and promote retention and graduation of students. The focus is on the development and application of college-level study skills, personal success strategies, and the use of campus resources. Any undergraduate student may take this course as an elective. Freshmen who earn less than a 2.0 GPA at FSU are required to take the course. Accomplishments during the 2017-2018 academic year include:

- The ACE faculty and adjunct instructors taught 411 students in 23 sections of SLS1122.
- By the end of Spring 2018, 72% of the mandated students were in good academic standing.
- Among 2017 cohort members mandated and enrolled in SLS1122 in the 2017 academic year, 80% were retained to the sophomore year.
- Among all course completers, 93% gave their SLS1122 instructor a rating of 'Excellent' or 'Very Good' on the SPCI evaluation form (66% response rate).

## Tutoring

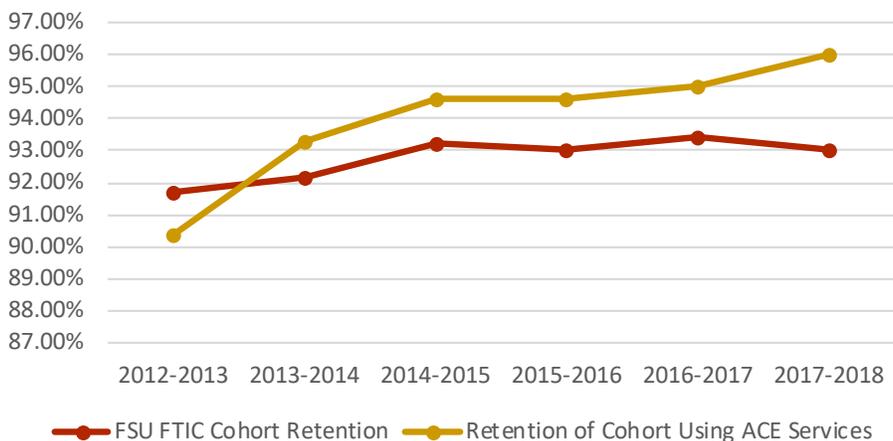
Peer tutoring is a process that supports student learning by strengthening a wide variety of educational skills. Working with a tutor can help students make the most of their study time while providing an enhanced understanding of potentially difficult subject matter.

ACE peer tutors completed a total of 15,564 student visits (916 in Summer 2017; 7,654 in Fall 2017; and 6,994 in Spring 2018).



## Academic Enrichment

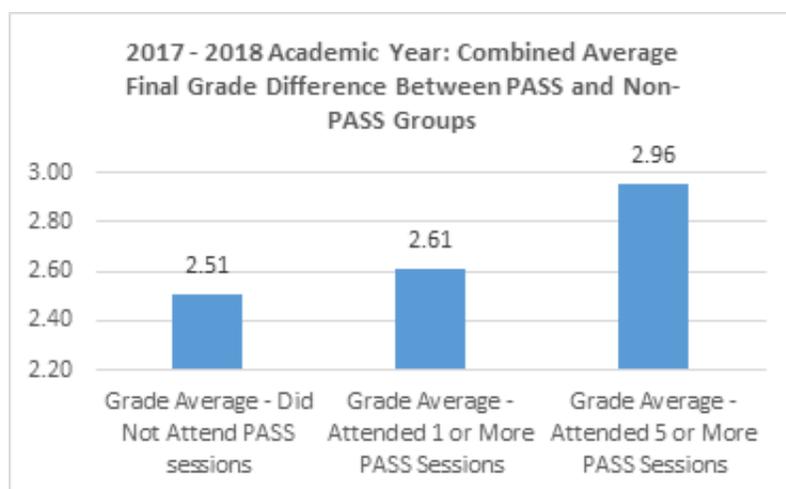
**ACE Learning Studio - Cohort Retention Trends  
2012-2018**



## Peer Assisted Study Sessions (PASS)

PASS is a high impact program offered in selected undergraduate courses that have been targeted as historically difficult at FSU. PASS Leaders focus on the most challenging content of the course and give students an opportunity to work collaboratively with their peers outside of class time in an effort to understand new concepts.

In 2017-2018, PASS sessions were available in ACG2021, ACG2071, BSC2010, CHM1045, CHM2210, and PHY2048C. Last academic year, 2,939 students (duplicated headcount) attended PASS sessions in one or more courses. On average, for throughout the 2017-2018 academic year, 33.84% of students enrolled in the courses that we supported attended PASS.



Across all PASS-supported classes, students who attended PASS sessions throughout the semester earned higher final grades in the majority of these classes. More specifically, their final grades were 0.05 to 0.96 higher than students who did not attend PASS. Most notably, students who attend PASS sessions 5 or more times throughout the semester obtained, on average, half a letter grade higher than students who did not attend PASS sessions.

Students who participated in the PASS program were invited to complete satisfaction surveys to evaluate their experiences. Below are some quotes from these satisfaction surveys:



- BCH4053: "Cameron encourages me to learn more and be as motivated as possible. Super helpful and a huge reason why I am receiving an A in the course."
- ACG2021: "Lauren is the best! I am new to PASS but I can see an increase in my understanding already. Made the class way easier to learn. Fun to come. I made friends."
- CHM1045: "[Salma] made my grade on tests go from a 43% to the 90s."
- CHM2210: "Alexa was always motivating and positive! PASS helped me a lot."

## 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 2017-2018 academic year, ACE provided 34 individual workshops and 37 presentations for students and various departments, reaching a total of 1,896 students.

### Student Satisfaction and Impact

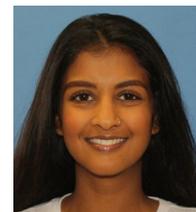
- 99% of workshop participants 'Strongly Agree' or 'Agree' that they will be able to use what they learned in the workshop.
- 92% of workshop participants 'Strongly Agree' or 'Agree' that the workshop met their expectations.

ACE Workshops & Presentations 2017-2018	
Workshop Title	Participants
Get Ready for the GMAT	5
Get Ready for the GRE	37
Get Ready for the LSAT	21
How to Get the BEST Letter of Recommendation	16
How to Get Control of Your Time	34
Making Notes (not taking them!)	32
Strategies for Test Preparation	54
Study Smarter	5
Why Graduate School?	8
Writing a Personal Statement [for Graduate School and Scholarships]	19
Total	231

### What students said about ACE's workshops:

- "The presenter made the workshop personal and enjoyable."
- "The presenter really personalized the workshop for me which helps me retain the information and I can implement them into my study habits."
- "I would recommend to other students to attend this workshop."
- "The workshop was very informative. I will be using these test preparation tips in the future."

## Robert D. Brooks Academic Achievement Award



The 2017 Robert D. Brooks Academic Achievement Award was presented to Megha Patel. Megha states, "The SLS1122 course introduced me to several new organizational methods for me to apply to my courses. I also began to utilize the resources around me, many of which I wasn't aware that FSU provided to students." Megha is a Biological Sciences major who is pursuing a career in healthcare and hopes to focus on public health in rural and underdeveloped communities. 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.

## 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 95 PACs.

## Other ACE Highlights

- Received funding from the Provost's initiative to reduce class sizes to hire three new specialized faculty for transfer student support, Peer Assisted Study Sessions, and early alert initiatives.
- Welcomed Dr. Kimberly Burgess to lead services that will enhance transfer student success, including implementation of an academic probation recovery course and other support services for transfer students.
- Welcomed Dr. Marisa Agama to oversee our Peer Assisted Study Sessions program.
- Welcomed Dr. Samantha Nix to develop and implement an early alert program.
- Received funding from the Provost to create and offer SLS1511 - Academic Success in STEM. This 1-credit hour course is designed to help students develop college-level study skills necessary to manage the demands of a variety of STEM courses, and also provide students with information that will help them make decisions as they progress through their STEM majors.
- ACE Learning Studio staff partnered with faculty and graduate students, in both the School of Communication and the Department of Psychology at FSU, by providing iPads to subjects participating in their research conducted during Summer 2017. The study examined how different reading media influence reading outcomes among adults as a result of both cognitive and psychological changes.
- Received \$500 in funding support from SGA Senate to provide healthy snacks to students during finals week in Fall 2017.
- Received \$1820 in funding support through SGA's Senate Sweepings Committee to provide FSU students pens with highlighters, ACE t-shirts, and healthy snacks during finals week.
- Received \$750 from the Family Connection Council Grant to provide healthy snacks to students in Spring 2018.
- ACE faculty advised 57 dual enrollment students from Leon and Wakulla Counties, including implementing a new orientation advising session for all new dual enrollment students.
- ACE Learning Studio received \$49K+ to purchase new, state of the art equipment for students to use while in our learning center, including desktops, laptops, and tablets.
- Collaborated with EAB to provide online tutoring appointments and study room reservations for students who have downloaded the Guide app.

# ACE Faculty & Staff



Marisa Agama, Ph.D.  
Instructional Specialist I



Yao Huang  
Graduate Assistant



Brooke Athey  
Program Associate



Holly Hunt  
Teaching Faculty II



Courtney Barry, Ph.D.  
Director of ACE



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Teaching Faculty I



Connor Jones  
Graduate Assistant



Andrew Dentzau  
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Graduate Assistant



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Samantha Nix  
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Angela Hockin  
Administrative Assistant



Todd Rakes  
Teaching Faculty I