ACADEMIC CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE

ANNUAL REPORT

Summer 2019 - Spring 2020
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PEER ASSISTED STUDY SESSIONS (PASS)
The Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) offered Peer Assisted Study Sessions (PASS) as a high impact program in selected undergraduate introductory courses required to enter specific majors that have been targeted as historically difficult at Florida State University (FSU). PASS Leaders, trained undergraduate students who previously and successfully completed the course, focused on the most challenging content of the course and gave students an opportunity to work collaboratively with their peers outside of class time in an effort to understand new concepts.

Attendance Frequency
Throughout the 2019-2020 school year (including Summer 2019) there were a total of 5,205 combined number of PASS visits, which represents a total of 1,515 students (unique). Fall 2019 had the highest number of visits (N = 2,739) in comparison to Summer 2019 (N = 591), and Spring 2020 (N = 1,875).

### COURSES SUPPORTED BY PASS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TERM</th>
<th>PASS COURSE</th>
<th>PASS COURSE NAME</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SUMMER 2019</td>
<td>BSC 2010</td>
<td>Biological Science I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CHM 1045</td>
<td>General Chemistry I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CHM 2211</td>
<td>Organic Chemistry II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ACG 2021</td>
<td>Introduction to Financial Accounting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FALL 2019</td>
<td>BCH 4053</td>
<td>General Biochemistry I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BSC 2011</td>
<td>Biological Science II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CHM 2210</td>
<td>Organic Chemistry I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CHM 2211</td>
<td>Organic Chemistry II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ECO 2013</td>
<td>Principles of Macroeconomics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PCB 3134</td>
<td>Cell Structure and Function</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ACG 2021</td>
<td>Introduction to Financial Accounting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPRING 2020</td>
<td>BSC 2010</td>
<td>Biological Science I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CHM 1045</td>
<td>General Chemistry I</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CHM 1044</td>
<td>General Chemistry II</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CHM 2210</td>
<td>Organic Chemistry I</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CHM 2211</td>
<td>Organic Chemistry II</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
ACE offers undergraduate students an opportunity to meet one-on-one with an ACE instructor to review and make improvements to their study and personal success habits. These consultations, which are free and available to current FSU students, involve assessing a student’s need and developing a plan of action for reaching the student’s academic goals. Consultations are not intended as long-term coaching situations, but it is sometimes possible to schedule one or more follow-up meetings.

PERSONAL ACADEMIC CONSULTATIONS

PERSONAL ACADEMIC CONSULTATIONS WERE CONDUCTED BETWEEN SUMMER 2019 AND SPRING 2020
PROACTIVE REFERRAL & ENGAGEMENT (PRE)
The FSU Proactive Referral and Engagement (PRE) program supports students experiencing academic challenge. When instructors submit referrals to PRE, faculty and staff reach out to selected students personally via email and phone. We attempt to address students’ general academic needs, and may also refer students to academic departments, tutoring resources, or other student services for more specialized help. Included is an overview of program usage and outcomes for the 2019-2020 academic year.

**COURSES WITH 2–9 REFERRALS**

- COP-3330
- ENC-3021
- REL-3431
- CRW-3311
- ENG-2012
- SLS-1122
- DEP-3103
- ENG-3310
- SLS-3140
- ENC-1101
- MAC-2233

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REFERRAL FREQUENCY</th>
<th>COURSES SUPPORTED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>3,164</strong></td>
<td><strong>ACG-2071</strong> ENC-2135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>STUDENTS WERE REFERRED</strong></td>
<td><strong>BSC-2010</strong> MAC-1105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>86</strong></td>
<td><strong>CHM-1045</strong> MAC-1114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FACULTY OR STAFF MEMBERS REFERRED STUDENTS</strong></td>
<td><strong>COP-3014</strong> MAC-1140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>COP-3363</strong> MAC-2311</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>ECO-2013</strong> MGF-1106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>ECO-2023</strong> SLS-3140</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CONTACT OUTCOMES**

- 57% NO RESPONSE
- 29% PHONE/EMAIL CONVERSATION
- 7% NO CONTACT DUE TO WITHDRAWAL/DROP OR REFUSAL
- 3% IN-PERSON MEETING
- 3% VISITED ACE STUDY SKILLS TUTORS
Study skills tutors offer students assistance in a variety of areas, including strengthening time management skills, note taking tips, how to properly email professors and/or teaching assistants, as well as modifying study habits. Study skills tutoring is located alongside course-based tutoring in the Learning Studio by appointment. Appointments are typically 45 minutes long. The information included reflects data from the Summer 2019 - Spring 2020 semesters.
SLS COURSES

SLS1004

SLS1004 Strategies for Academic Success in STEM, first taught in 2018 as a 12-week 1 credit hour course is now a full 16-week semester course with growing enrollment. The course continues to focus on the development and application of study skills and learning strategies for STEM courses and valuable information about educational, research, and career opportunities. Assignments critical to building essential study skills for STEM courses are necessary for self-efficacy in STEM; activities designed to expose students to STEM career pathways are crucial for deciding future engagement in STEM; and STEM identity development through opportunities to interact with and listen to STEM professionals from diverse backgrounds helps bridge the gap between the image students have of themselves and the image they have of STEM professionals. Increasing diversity in STEM majors at FSU is a priority and we see this course as doing our part toward that end.

Quote from student, Spring 2020:
“I believe Dr. Golay and Dr. Stephenson used the slim amount of time provided for this course effectively through the power points used. The [study skills] power points gave direct information to the students along with her further explanation of the material. Another thing Dr. Stephenson did very well was introduce us to many guest speakers who spoke deeper into topics in the course.”

Dr. Patricia Golay from the Academic Center for Excellence and Dr. Adrienne Stephenson, the Director of the Office of Graduate Fellowships and Awards (The Graduate School), co-teach the course. Dr. Golay’s expertise is in designing study skills curriculum and Dr. Stephenson’s expertise is in Neuropharmacology and Toxicology. Together, they have created a program for students who are in STEM majors and those considering a STEM major. Dr. Golay believes more should be done to retain students in STEM. She states, “We want to stop the bleed of STEM students by preparing them for the rigors of their programs while simultaneously helping them forge their individual paths to success. This is one small effort in this regard.”

SLS1122

SLS1122 is a one-credit course 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 and personal success strategies while also promoting campus resources. Any undergraduate student may take this course as an elective. Freshmen who earn less than a 2.0 GPA in their first fall semester at FSU are required to take this course.
TUTORING
TUTORIZING

The ACE Learning Studio is the site of our course-based peer-tutoring program, where our undergraduate student tutors provide services to other FSU students in over 100 different courses. Peer tutoring is a process that supports student learning by strengthening a wide variety of educational skills. This includes time management, test-preparation, strategic reading, organization, mathematics, processing information, and skills specific to individual classes and majors. Our tutors receive training by completing our College Reading & Learning Association (CRLA) certified tutoring program.

COURSES & FREQUENCY

TOP FIFTEEN COURSES REQUESTED

#1 CHM-1045  #6 CHM-1046  #11 MAC-2233
#2 CHM-2210  #7 STA-2023  #12 COP-3330
#3 MAC-1105  #8 COP-3014  #13 MAC-2312
#4 MAC-2311  #9 MAC-1140  #14 ACG-2021
#5 BSC-2010  #10 PHY-2048  #15 COP-3363

4,912
ONE-ON-ONE STUDENT VISITS
691 IN SUMMER | 2,551 IN FALL | 1,670 IN SPRING

820
STUDENTS ATTENDED MORE THAN ONE APPOINTMENT

104
DIFFERENT COURSES ALONG WITH THE GRE EXAM WERE TUTORED

3,346+
VISITS FOR TOP 15 COURSES OUT OF 4,912 ONE-ON-ONE VISITS

1,664
UNIQUE CONTACTS
SUMMER 2019 – SPRING 2020
TUTORING

GROUP TUTORING:

ACE offers group tutoring for a variety of subjects, led by ACE tutors. These sessions help effectively answer student questions for a large number of students both before tests and weekly.

MOST HIGHLY ATTENDED COURSES
BY STUDENTS FROM 2019–2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#1</th>
<th>MAC-1140</th>
<th>369</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#2</td>
<td>MAC-2233</td>
<td>362</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#3</td>
<td>MAC-1105</td>
<td>322</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#4</td>
<td>MGF-1106</td>
<td>239</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#5</td>
<td>CHM-1045</td>
<td>173</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#6</td>
<td>MAC-1114</td>
<td>156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#7</td>
<td>STA-2023</td>
<td>107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#8</td>
<td>MAC-2311</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#9</td>
<td>CHM-1046</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#10</td>
<td>CHM-2210</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

STUDENT COMMENTS

“The tutor explained everything very well! They really helped me understand what I needed to do.”

“The tutor answered my questions and even asked leading questions to help me better understand, rather than just giving me the answer.”

“I came in not understanding much and feel so much better about the concepts now.”

1,275 UNIQUE CONTACTS
SUMMER 2019 – SPRING 2020

2,370 TOTAL CONTACTS
SUMMER 2019 – SPRING 2020
MATH STUDIO:

ACE hosts weekly math help group sessions for MAC 1105, MAC1114, MAC1140, MAC2233, and occasionally for MAC2311, MAC2312, and MAC2313, based on demand. ACE also hosts extended math help group sessions prior to tests in the respective courses, and several group sessions leading up to and during Final Exam week.

On March 21, 2020, ACE’s tutoring services shifted to a virtual format due to the COVID pandemic. The Math Studio tutoring services transitioned to online appointment-based tutoring. In Spring 2020, ACE’s Math Studio had less than half the number of unique student visits in Spring 2019 (48%). There were 2543 unique visits in Spring 2019 and 1450 unique visits in Spring 2020.
WORKSHOPS
ACE offers workshops 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.

**WORKSHOP TITLE**  
**PARTICIPANTS**

- ★ CIVIC LITERACY EXAM PREPARATION  
  57
- LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT  
  9
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE (GK) REVIEW SESSION  
  6
- GET READY FOR THE GMAT  
  1
- GET READY FOR THE GRE  
  24
- GET READY FOR THE LSAT  
  24
- LEAPING OFF THE PAGE  
  16
- HOW TO GET THE BEST LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION  
  7
- ★ HOW TO GET CONTROL OF YOUR TIME  
  54
- WRITE YOUR WRONGS  
  5
- MAKING NOTES (NOT TAKING THEM!)  
  24
- ★ STRATEGIES FOR TEST PREPARATION  
  29
- WRITING A PERSONAL STATEMENT  
  10

**AMONG 41 WORKSHOPS STUDENTS...**

- 94%  
  “STRONGLY AGREE” OR “AGREE” THAT THEY WILL BE ABLE TO USE WHAT THEY LEARNED IN THE WORKSHOP
- 94%  
  “STRONGLY AGREE” OR “AGREE” THAT THE WORKSHOP MET THEIR EXPECTATIONS

**STUDENT COMMENTS**

- “I though this presentation was incredible! I love how the tutor went about teaching. This workshop was extremely informational, and I am now confident in my ability to study for this exam.”

- “This workshop gave me some great information on citations that I was not familiar with and provided a great starting point.”

- “Awesome workshop! It gave me a lot of things to think about in my pursuit for letters of recommendation.”
7,106 students were in the 2019 First-Time-in-College (FTIC) cohort. Of those 2,220 2019 FTIC cohort students who used the Learning Studio services, 96% were enrolled full-time (12 credits) for the Fall 2020 semester.
STUDENT USAGE & TECHNOLOGY

STUDY ROOM USE

6,686 TOTAL VISITS
SUMMER 2019 - SPRING 2020

1,256 UNIQUE STUDENT CONTACTS

COMPUTER & OPEN STUDY AREA USE

1,761 TOTAL VISITS
SUMMER 2019 - SPRING 2020

809 UNIQUE STUDENT CONTACTS

TECH USE (LAPTOPS, PROJECTORS, ETC.)

363 TOTAL VISITS
SUMMER 2019 - SPRING 2020
The Robert D. Brooks Academic Achievement Award is a one-time, $250 scholarship awarded to an FSU student who completed SLS1122 and demonstrated that the course had significant impact on his or her academic life here at FSU. The 2019 Robert D. Brooks Academic Achievement Award recipient was Shekinah Erinac. Shekinah is a junior criminology major pursuing the field of law. She plans to serve as a public defender for low income individuals with a long term goal of being a Supreme Court justice.

"All in all, taking SLS 1122 not only improved my grade point average, but it improved how I looked at school, what I did to succeed, and my overall confidence in my college career."

-Shekinah Erinac