

Department of Academic Learning

Introduction

The Academic Learning Department offers a variety of learning support programs described below. These include the Tutoring Center and centers specializing in reading, writing, math, study skills, and English as a second language. Services for students with disabilities is also housed within the department.

Tutoring Center

Students who desire help beyond their regular classroom instruction may seek assistance at the Tutoring Center. Individual, group, or walk-in sessions are available. Tutors are chosen from students who have succeeded academically in the class, completed a tutor-training program, and have been approved by their department. There is no cost for this service; however, students are encouraged to seek first all possible help from instructors and class help sessions before signing up for tutoring. To sign up and schedule tutoring appointments, see the tutor request link on your my.byui.edu page.

Reading Center

The Reading Center helps students improve basic reading skills as well as learn the skills necessary to study university textbooks. Students receiving help at the Reading Center may register for credit or complete a non-credit program.

Each student receives individual diagnosis, advising, and instruction. The Reading Center offers one-on-one tutoring for comprehension, phonics, vocabulary, efficient textbook reading and critical thinking. In addition, reading courses offer instruction in comprehension and specific reading skills (English 101), and the study of university textbooks (English 107). A writing course (English 106) emphasizes basic writing conventions.

English Transitional Center

The English Transitional Center (ETC) is designed to help students, with English as a Second Language (ESL), adjust to their role as matriculated college students. The ETC helps students improve and practice their listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. Through English 101 modules, students may receive individual (peer tutor) help with pronunciation, grammar, writing, vocabulary, reading comprehension, and conversation skills. English 101 may be taken for credit or non credit. English 108 (orientation and verbal communication) and English 109 (writing) are classroom setting courses offered through the Academic Learning Department for ESL students who have been accepted to BYU-Idaho. Students receive college credit towards graduation for all of these courses.

Writing Center

The Writing Center provides a relaxed environment for students who want to improve their writing skills. Qualified student assistants work individually with writers in free, twenty-minute sessions. Walk-ins are welcome. Because the Center teaches writing as “re-writing,” students may expect help throughout the writing process as they move their papers from rough drafts to the final product. Writing assistants and students work together to accomplish the following:

- Discover and generate ideas for essays
- Compose strong introductions and conclusions
- Develop support through detailed, concrete discussions
- Organize and focus evidence
- Construct topic sentences and transitions
- Write research papers, resumes and letters of applications, proposals, summaries, responses, and literary critiques
- Reinforce skills through practicing on C.L.I.P.S. *a computer program that utilizes rules, advice, examples, and computer drills to strengthen weak areas in punctuation, grammar, and usage

The writing assistants work as an objective audience for writers and involve students directly in the critical thinking/writing process. The Writing Center is a great resource for students especially when they come for assistance in the early stages of the drafting process.

MATH STUDY CENTER

The Math Study Center provides support for all math students on campus with three separate services:

The drop-in Math Study Center is open 55 hours per week, 9 am - 5 pm on Monday and Friday, 9 am - 9 pm on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and 11 am - 2 pm on Saturday, (closed for devotionals and forums) with a staff of tutors available to answer math questions for all math classes. Test review is also available for Math 100 and 101.

One-on-one tutors: This service is recommended for those desiring more individualized help than what is offered in the drop-in center. Free tutors are available for all math classes offered at BYU-Idaho. One-on-one tutoring sessions can be scheduled online. Go to my.byui.edu and under the links select Tutor Request. Any inquiries can be directed to MCK 272.

Math requirement preparation courses (Math 100A, Math 100B, and Math 101) are designed to prepare students for their university math requirements: They are taught in a lecture based setting by a dynamic group of professors.

STUDY SKILLS CENTER

The Study Skills Center is designed to assist students in improving their study skills. Students may obtain help either by enrolling in a class online or by enrolling in a module by visiting the Center in MCK 266.

Two classes are offered:

- College Success- which is designed to help students explore learning strategies, discover their own particular learning style, and help develop a more positive attitude toward education.
- Study Skills Class- helps students improve learning effectiveness, attitude and motivation, time management, studying textbooks, study habits, memory, concentration, etc. This course also orients students to available university services and resources. This course is a one credit block class (8 weeks).

Study Skills Modules:

Students may enroll in any study skills module listed below by registering at the Study Skills Center. Modules may be taken for credit (.5 each) or on a non-credit basis; however, modules must be added by the 12th week of the semester, and each module may be registered for only once each semester. The following modules are offered:

- Concentration and Memorization
- Note Taking & Listening
- Thinking Skills
- Textbook Study
- Time Management
- Test Taking Skills
- Studying Chemistry

For more information on these modules, see the course descriptions in the Academic Learning section of the catalog.

One-on-one counseling is also available to help students develop more effective personal study strategies.