Tutoring Services Department

Skills Specialists
Math Learning Center—Leo Harman
Reading Learning Center—Yvonne Richardson
Science Learning Centers—Ed Gildemeister
Writing Assistance Center—Laurie Ann Guerrero

Coordinator
Thomas Murguia
Initiatives

- Student satisfaction surveys
- Tracking the number of lab visits
- Increasing outreach to faculty and students
- Tutor training manual
- Smarthinking online tutoring
Student Satisfaction Surveys

Spring 2011 results, on a scale of 1-5
(5 being most satisfied):

Math Learning Center: 4.72
Science Learning Centers: 4.76
Reading Learning Center: 4.52
Writing Assistance Center: 4.72
Tracking Student Visits

Fall 2010 through Summer II 2011 visits:

Math Learning Center: 25,826
Science Learning Centers: 17,461
Reading Learning Center: 12,582
Writing Assistance Center: 2,224

Total: 58,093
Outreach to Faculty and Students

- For Fall 2011 and Spring 2012, our goal is to increase retention rates and PGRs for students who attend the centers while taking the following high-risk courses:
  - Math 0301-1314
  - Biology 2401, Chemistry 1311
  - English 0301-1301
  - Government 2305, History 1301
- We will consult with instructors to review and revise existing supplemental materials.
- Workshops will be created to target traditionally difficult concepts.
Tutor Training Manual

- Created this spring and summer by skills specialists and tutors
- Addresses tutoring best practices, lab-specific duties, code of ethics, etc.
- Conforms with CRLA certification requirements
Smarthinking

➤ Free online tutoring in most subjects
➤ No registration required by the student
➤ Accessed through “My Courses” tab in ACES
➤ Several options available: “real-time” tutoring session, schedule an appointment, or submit a question
### Course Schedule for: Fall 2010

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<th>Courses I’m Attending</th>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Instructor(s)</th>
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Smarthinking Usage

From Fall 2010 through Summer II 2011, PAC students used Smarthinking online tutoring 1,372 times for a total of 767 hours.

Most popular subjects:

- Essay Center - 524 visits
- Algebra - 306 visits
- General Chemistry - 129 visits
Relocations/Renovations

- Science Learning Center has moved from GLL to Frio Hall 111
- Reading Learning Center has moved from GLL to Nueces Hall 114
  - Math Learning Center will take over the vacated space
- Writing Assistance Center now has two rooms in GLL—119 and 121
Relocations/Renovations

- When GLL is renovated:
  - Math Learning Center will gain 5 study rooms
  - Writing Assistance Center will gain 4 study rooms
  - Both centers will share a new workshop room
Services Provided

- Tutoring on a walk-in basis
- Assistance with all math content
- TI-83/84/85 calculators available for checkout
- Reviews for all remedial and College Algebra final exams
Computer Software

Network-Based
- Maple
- Algebrator

Internet-Based
- Aleks
- MyMathLab
- Interact Math
- Math Zone
Contact Us!

Leo Harman

- In the Math Learning Center at ext. 6-3280
- Email: lharman1@alamo.edu
Reading Learning Center
Nueces Hall 114
Reading Learning Center

The primary function of the Reading Learning Center is to support the students who are enrolled in our Developmental Reading classes.
Services Provided

Tutoring

Increase reading skills in the following areas:

- Reading comprehension
- Increase reading rate or speed
- Reading vocabulary development

Computers and software to support one-hour weekly lab requirement
Reading Lab Software

- Weaver Software: vocabulary and reading comprehension components
- EDL Quantum and Reading Strategies has a reading comprehension component.
- PassKey Software Program: develops critical thinking and comprehension skills
- Kurzweil Electronic Reader: A computer software program that reads text once material has been scanned into software.
Contact Us!

Yvonne Richardson

- In the Reading Learning Center at ext. 6-3262
- Email: yrichardson2@alamo.edu
Science Learning Centers
Frio Hall 111 & Brazos Hall 126
Science Learning Center

Two Locations:

Frio Hall 111

Brazos Hall 126

Anatomy and Physiology, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Geology, Genetics, Nutrition, Microbiology
Resources & Tools

Frio Hall 111 & Brazos Hall 126

- Study space
- Whiteboards
- Computers
- Textbooks
- Chemistry molecular models
- LCD projector
- Models
- 7 microscopes/various slides
- Rocks, minerals, and maps
Textbooks & Study Guides

- Textbooks
  - Some current
  - Available for check out and use in the Science Learning Center
    - Photo I.D. required
- Study guides
- Solution manuals
  - For extra practice problems
Chemistry
molecular models

Biology Models
Microscopes and Various Slides

- Microbiology
  - Bacterial
  - Fungal
- Anatomy and Physiology
  - Blood cells
  - Various tissue samples
- Biology
  - Plant roots and stems
- And others...
Rocks, Minerals, & Maps
Workshops

- Conversions 101
- Problem Solving 101, 102, & 103
- The Formal Lab Report
- Bond, Chemical Bond (Organic Chemistry in the Body)
- Cracking the Code: The Enigma of Nucleic Acid Transcription and Translation
- Impractical Muscles (Muscle Contraction at the Molecular Level)
- The Body Electric: Membranes, Nerves and Electrical Charges
Contact Us!

Ed Gildemeister
- In the Science Learning Center at ext. 6-3281
- Email: egildemeister@alamo.edu
Overview

- Tutoring service to help students with any writing task
- Help from brainstorming to final draft
- Work on writing across the disciplines
  - Essays, research papers, scholarships, college application essays, resumes, MLA/APA formatting, etc.
- Offer 20 minute one-on-one sessions
Using the Writing Assistance Center

- Schedule an Appointment
  - Call or visit to reserve a spot
  - Preferred method and strongly suggested, especially during busy times during the semester!
Using the Writing Assistance Center

- **What Students Should Bring**
  - *Assignment*, if provided by professor
  - *Printed draft*, if at the drafting stage, or *notes, outline*
    - If students don’t have a draft yet, notes or an outline, etc. is okay
  - *Pen and paper* to take notes

- **Please Note:**
  - The WAC does not offer printing services (use Go Print in Math Learning Center)
  - USB drives are not used to upload papers
Using the Writing Assistance Center

- Classroom Visits and Visits to the Center
  - General information sessions about services
  - Good way to familiarize students with the center and get them in the door

- Can be coordinated with advance notice
  - Contact Laurie Ann Guerrero at 486-3257 or lguerrero84@alamo.edu
Workshops

- **Writing Workshops**
  - Writing Process
    - Steps of the writing process, prewriting strategies
  - Critical Thinking
    - Paragraph development, details and analysis
  - Grammatical Sentences
    - Review sentence structure, fragments and run-ons
  - Four English 1301 Workshops:
    - Citations, Summary, Synthesis, and Argument
    - Available in-person or online
- Reservation required, limited seating
Updates

- Exit Exam Reviews
  - English 0301 and 1301
    - Review guidelines and tips for 0301 exit and 1301 final
  - Held towards end of semester
- GLL 121 will have PCs students can use for writing assignments
- GLL 119 will be used for individual tutoring and for workshops
Updates

- Policies are available online and in center
  - Provide a detailed overview of the WAC
- Handouts available online and in center
  - Address common writing issues and outline the basics of frequently assigned essay types
  - Intended to provide general writing help
- Visit www.alamo.edu/pac/tutoring
Contact Us!

Laurie Ann Guerrero

• In the Writing Assistance Center at ext. 6-3257
• Email: lguerrero84@alamo.edu
Tutoring Services in math, reading, science and writing are FREE to all Palo Alto College students. There is also FREE online tutoring called Smarthinking that is available 24/7.

**TUTORING LABS**
- Foreign Language Lab
- Math Learning Center
- Reading Learning Center
- Science Learning Center
- Writing Assistance Center

**SMARTHINKING**
- Smarthinking - Check it out!

**EARLY ALERT**
- Early Alert and Tutoring Labs

**BALDRIGE**
- Baldrige White Paper: Tutoring Impact on Student Success