

L.A.C. NEWS

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The mission of Xavier's Learning Assistance Center is threefold. We seek to ensure that all students can freely participate in all facets of university life. We provide and coordinate support services to maximize students' educational potential and develop their independence to the fullest extent possible. Finally, we strive to increase the level of awareness among all members of the university community so that students with disabilities are able to perform at a level limited only by their abilities, not

The Learning Assistance Center?

That's right! This summer brought about changes not only in programming, but in our name as well. This change provides a more accurate portrayal of our services as a center which offers programs for all Xavier students.

TUTORING SERVICES



Without question, academic success is a priority of the faculty, staff, and students at Xavier University. It is for this reason that the L.A.C. began providing one-on-one tutoring services for the entire student population.

The L.A.C. trains and certifies tutors according to the College Reading and Learning Association's guidelines. In addition, tutors are required to meet GPA standards, provide professor recommendations and participate in ongoing tutor training. Offering such a program allows students to have a working relationship with a tutor which is ongoing, consistent, regulated, and comprehensive.

JUST THE FACTS

- ✓ In the 1997-98 academic year, 136 students requested tutoring services. This was an increase of 176% from the previous year.
- ✓ Within the first 3 weeks of the current school year over 45 students have requested tutors.
- ✓ Working with various departments, the L.A.C. has acquired specialty tutors in the areas of biology, economics, physics, and chemistry..
- ✓ The average grade earned last year by students being tutored was 2.86 or a B-.
- ✓ A formal assessment of student learner satisfaction, in 1997-98, averaged 7.7 on

PEER ADVISING

Providing Excellent Educational Resources

Beginning an academic career at a university can be both exciting and nerve wracking. Incoming students may have excelled in high school but many find the transition to college life very difficult. It is for this reason that the L.A.C. has developed the Peer Advising Program.

This program was designed to assist incoming students with the academic transition between high school and college. In conjunction with the Office of Residence Life, Resident Advisors and Peer Advisors train together and discuss ways in which to enhance the first year experience. Throughout the academic year these "teams" evaluate the needs of the students and decide what may be beneficial to their success.

Trained peer tutors serve as mentors to these students in areas such as time management, study skills, note taking and other academic areas. Each peer advisor (PA) is assigned to a specific floor(s) in the residence halls where freshmen live. This PA facilitates discussions on various

academic topics and provides a setting where students can "drop by" for help with homework, papers and any other academic questions.

In August, the 1998-99 Peer Advisors, made their debut during "move-in day". Despite the heat and heavy boxes the move-in crew (including all those involved with Manresa and the Resident Advisors) managed to keep the atmosphere fun and positive for the new students.

JUST THE FACTS

- ✓ In the 1997-98 academic year, a total of 755 contact hours were recorded for peer advising. These hours were completed by 10 peer advisors!
- ✓ 27 formal presentations were given in areas such as learning styles, study skills, time management, test taking, etc.

Myths and Realities!

Myth: XU waives foreign language and mathematics requirements for students with disabilities.

Reality: No waivers are ever granted, only substitutions, but only after the committee (comprised of the Deans) hears each individual case. Total last year? 3

Myth: The L.A.C. may only used by students with disabilities.

Reality: This center is available to any Xavier student for tutoring and peer advising. However, only

students with diagnosed and documented learning disabilities are eligible for testing accommodations.

Myth: Student's can't be tested for learning disabilities or AD(H)D at Xavier.

Reality: X.U. students CAN be tested for LDs and/or AD(H)D at Xavier thanks to an agreement between the L.A.C. and the Psy.D. program.



PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES

Attention Please! is in its second year of operation at the Learning Assistance Center. This group discusses issues and concerns surrounding Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder and the college student. Areas of discussion include; organizational strategies, time management, relationships and medication. Periodically, speakers involved in this field visit to share their knowledge and experience with the group.

In addition to Attention Please! the L.A.C. is in the process of developing another discussion group aimed towards college students with learning disabilities. Providing these opportunities for discussion allows a more educated and well-rounded community.

Professors- Did you know that...

The Learning Assistance Center can help with those days when you may need to miss a class?

That's right! If you are going to a conference or need to be out of town a trained tutor can "teach" your class for a day. They will provide your students with information about learning styles, time management, test taking strategies, reading strategies and even organizational techniques. This peer-to peer approach provides an informal atmosphere in which to give a "refresher" course in student study skills. Call the L.A.C. for more information.



MEET OUR TUTORS

- List of tutor names: Kim Burnside, Rachael Burnside, Kelly Cichy, Cathy Hilke, Ben Dehner, Stephanie Durkee, Kate Gromen, Tony Jensen, Gretchen Lieb, Jennifer Monnig, Ann Moore, Stephanie Mosier, Mary Murray, Jill Pala, Brian Sokol, Luke Smith, Jeffrey Stumpf, John Campbell, Kevin Walker, Ben Shoener, Kimberly Hein

We are please to welcome all those peer tutors who will be assisting the Xavier community this year.

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions please contact the LAC at...

745-3280

Sarah Kelly-Director Lynn Shanahan-Graduate Assistant

The Learning Assistance Center