

Academic Assistance

Academic Advisors. Each student is assigned to an academic advisor based upon the student's major.

Support Services for Students. The College provides a variety of resources to students, including the Office of Disability Services, the Career Center for Vocation and Development, and the Engle Center for Health and Counseling.

Math Help. A Math Help Room is open four evenings a week for problem-solving assistance. Contact Person: Doug Phillippy ext. 2140.

Study Skills Course. This one-credit course offered each semester is mandatory for provisionally admitted first year students and highly recommended for students who are on probation or otherwise need help with academic skills.

The Writing Center. The Writing Center offers students personal assistance with any writing projects. Clients work one-to-one with peer tutors who are trained to help them work on individual assignments, and to help them develop the writing skills they will need throughout their careers. Workshop tutoring is useful to students at all levels of competence, and it is especially helpful for those who lack confidence in their writing abilities. The Writing Center is open Monday through Thursday afternoons and evenings. Contact Person: David Dzaka. http://www.messiah.edu/academics/writing_center

The Learning Center. The Learning Center offers academic support to our students. Students meet with peer tutors to get help with their coursework and also to learn basic study skills and how to apply them. The Center is available and beneficial to all students, regardless of their levels of competence. Students benefit from the one-on-one interaction with a trained tutor who tailors the sessions to each individual's needs. Additionally, small group study sessions are formed with a tutor as needed. The Center is open Monday through Thursday from 3-10 p.m. Although some students are faculty referrals, self-referrals are most welcome. Please let your students know about the Learning Center at the beginning of each semester. Contact Ann Rohrbaugh for more information.

Supplemental Instruction targets "high risk" courses rather than "high risk" students. Most supplemental instruction to date has been in the sciences. The College pays trained Supplemental Instruction leaders to attend class lectures, take notes, read course material, then plan and conduct three or more review sessions outside of class each week. The Supplemental Instruction review sessions are interactive and utilize a variety of collaborative learning strategies as they combine how to learn with what to learn. Students acquire effective study strategies as they review course material and prepare for tests. The sessions are not remedial, but beneficial to all who choose to attend. Statistical data suggest that students who attend Supplemental Instruction sessions earn one-half to a full letter grade higher than students who choose not to attend. Contact Person Kate Quimby ext. 7021.

Disability Services. Students with disabilities requiring accommodation in classes, programs, or services can arrange for adjustments through the Disability Services office. Students are required to self-identify, present current documentation of eligibility (three years or newer) and specify needed accommodations. Following verification of eligibility, an accommodation profile is developed with the student. Faculty or staff needing to make accommodations are then notified of the student's eligibility and provided with a list of suggested accommodations. Students who think they may have a disability are encouraged to meet with the Director of Disability Services. All communication remains confidential. Contact Person: Keith Drahn ext. 7258.

Student-in-Difficulty Forms. Student-in-Difficulty forms are now available online to faculty for the purpose of informing students that they are performing poorly or are failing a given course. After completing the form, it is submitted and distributed to the student, the academic advisor, and appropriate Residence Life staff. You can obtain this form by going to MCSquare, educators tab, selecting the Faculty and Advisor tab from the top of the screen and then Student in Difficulty form. Select course (the one they are having trouble with), select current term, and then select the specific student from the course. Check all reasons for student's difficulty, and then submit. Both the student and the student's advisor will receive this information.