Director’s Message

Welcome to the fall 2011 semester!

The Office of Academic Services (OAS), which is housed within the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences, is committed to your success. I invite you to avail yourself of everything we have to offer. To kick off the semester and officially welcome all newly admitted freshmen, OAS will be hosting its Annual Open House event on Thursday, September 1, 11:30 a.m.—1:30 p.m., during NSU’s Weeks of Welcome. Please stop by to meet our tutors and staff, take part in an activity that will enhance your understanding of what we do, and enjoy a light lunch on us.

I am glad to announce the continuation of the supplemental instruction program, which facilitates group-study sessions for specific classes. OAS is always seeking new ways to provide you with the best academic support available. Stop by and see what is new this academic year!

Lisa Walther-Austin
Director, Office of Academic Services

Fourth Annual Tutor Recognition Ceremony

On April 11, 2011, OAS recognized its tutors for their hard work, valuable contributions, and achievements throughout the 2010–2011 academic year. Tutors were addressed by Don Rosenblum, dean of Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences; Kodi Stevens, graduating tutor; and Dana Altschul, former tutor and now a successful physician assistant. The ceremony was also attended by faculty and administrators of the college. At the end of the ceremony, all tutors received an herbal plant as a symbol of nurturing, growth, and wisdom.
Demand Grows for Tutoring Services

OAS tracks statistics on utilization of the services we offer. These numbers allow us to schedule enough tutoring hours for each upcoming semester.

The comparison of the 2009–2010 and 2010–2011 academic years shows a 14% increase in the use of our tutoring services. 4509 tutoring visits were recorded during the 2009–10 year, and 5123 tutoring visits were recorded during the 2010–11 academic year. The largest increase was in science tutoring, specifically general chemistry, organic chemistry, and physics.

This upward trend has been consistent throughout the years, and we hope will continue into the future.

Peer Tutors Needed

If you want to become a peer tutor (math or science), you must have the following:

- minimum of 30 earned credits
- overall GPA of 3.4 or higher
- B+ or higher in any course to be tutored
- faculty recommendations

To apply, visit [www.fcas.nova.edu/services/academic_services](http://www.fcas.nova.edu/services/academic_services), complete an application, and drop it off at OAS (Parker Building, Room 100).

In Their Own Words

Karen Ryan
Writing Tutor
Fort Myers SEC

Karen has a Master of Arts degree in English from Gannon University in Erie, Pennsylvania. She moved to Fort Myers in 2003 to escape the snow and to be near her parents. Karen has been teaching English composition to college students for over 20 years and is currently teaching at Florida Gulf Coast University, where she is also a writing consultant.

She has been a writing tutor at the Office of Academic Services since January 2010 and loves meeting new students each semester who are eager to improve their writing. Most of the students Karen tutors are in the nursing program. “It is a bonus working with nursing students,” Karen said, “because I learn so much, too.”

In her spare time, Karen is researching her family tree and taking courses through the National Genealogical Society. Her goal is to compile a family history book and someday visit the countries of all her ancestors.

Testing Basics

Dear Faculty,

When using testing services, remember to…

- advise students to schedule testing appointments at least 24 hours in advance
- indicate time accommodation on the instructor cover sheet (when needed)
- complete the instructor cover sheet
- deliver tests at least 24 hours prior to the student’s scheduled appointment time
- pick up tests in a timely manner

NOTE: The EyeQ speed-reading program is available to NSU students who are preparing to take professional exams. The program is focused on increasing both reading speed and comprehension.

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Is Online Tutoring for You?

OAS offers tutoring in person and online. Online tutoring is geared to students who cannot attend tutoring in person, whether because they live far away from any NSU campus or because the tutoring hours at a Student Educational Center conflict with the student's schedule.

Many students are hesitant to try online tutoring because they imagine themselves wandering through the virtual world left to figure things out alone. In reality, online tutoring is very different.

All online sessions take place in real time, which means that the tutor and the student meet at the same time and are able to have a live discussion. Just like in a face-to-face meeting, students are encouraged to be active participants in the session.

During an online session, the tutor connects with the student through the Internet and over the phone. Using a speakerphone during the session allows the student to write or type without any distractions. The video connection is made through the Wimba platform in WebCT.

During a writing session, the student opens the paper on his/her computer, and the tutor links with the student’s desktop. Both tutor and student can interact with the paper during the session. When the connection ends, the student can save the paper, but the tutor loses access to the document and the student’s computer.

In a math/science session, we do the opposite, connecting the student with the tutor’s desktop, which is equipped with a high-resolution camera. The camera is pointed to a piece of paper, on which the tutor writes throughout the session. Writing on paper instead of typing on a computer allows for more flexibility in terms of writing scientific formulas and drawing graphs.

When an appointment is made for an online session, students receive an email with detailed instructions on how to set up Wimba and how to connect with the tutor.

All online tutoring is delivered by NSU’s main campus tutors.

“Education is not the filling of a bucket but the lighting of a fire.”

William Butler Yeats

Policy Reminders

OAS has several important policies for students, including the following:

- For writing appointments, bring two copies of your paper.
- For math/science appointments, bring your attempted work.
- For all appointment cancellations, call the front desk at least three hours in advance.
- Return all borrowed materials within seven days or call to extend (once).
- Schedule a new appointment only after you have completed a session.