

Student Academic Learning Services

Learner Support Centre

January 2010

Inside This Issue

- 1 Welcome Back!
- 1 Peer Tutoring Services
- 2 ESL Services
- 2 Learning Strategies Services
- 3 Academic Writing Services
- 3 First Generation Project
- 4 Contact Us
- 5 SALS Diagram of LSC Services
- 6 [LSC Referral Form](#)

[LSC January 2010 Workshops](#)

Quick Fact

During the Fall 2009 semester, the LSC team had more than **1700 appointments** with students, and conducted over **182 workshops and clinics**.

Welcome Back!

This is the winter issue of the Learner Support Centre (LSC) Bulletin. Two issues are published annually, one in mid-January and the other in mid-September. With this newsletter we hope to make it easier for you to find out how the LSC can support student success by keeping you updated on the services we provide, the successes we have had, and the new initiatives we have undertaken. With this in mind, we have included a copy of the LSC referral form, a link to the LSC orientations and contact information for our staff.

Peer Tutoring Services

College Peer Tutoring

College peer tutoring has again demonstrated its value to our students through its significant growth this past semester. Upper-year college students tutor on a one-to-one basis or in a small group setting with students experiencing difficulties in various college subjects. Tutoring began in the third week of September and continued until exam week. There were **62 peer tutors** hired and matched with **315 students**. Compare that number to 42 peer tutors matched with 230 students for the same period just a year ago. That is a **48% increase in the number of peer tutors** hired and a **37% increase in the number of students** served. Tutoring starts with professors identifying at-risk students and recommending the service to their students. It is as simple as directing students to the front desk of the Learner Support Centre for more information. Tutoring for the Winter semester will begin on January 18 and applications will be available at the LSC from January 6.

University Peer Writing Tutors

We have extended our writing support service hours to meet the growing demand and better accommodate students' schedules. Two trained upper-year students from UOIT are available to meet with students by appointment on **Tuesday evenings from 5:00 – 7:00pm** as well as during the week at scheduled times.

Students can meet with the university peer writing tutors for assignment clarification, assignment feedback, MLA and APA referencing, and research strategies.

Peer writing services will begin on January 25. Students interested in seeing a peer writing tutor can book an appointment by calling Kathy Bryers at 905- 721-2000 ext 2491 or by coming to the front desk of the Learner Support Centre in SW 201.

Residence Academic Leaders (RALs)

RALs are upper year students with high grade point averages who provide support to students who face academic challenges. Our two RALs were trained in September to deliver tutoring services in writing supports, math, sciences, ESL, and learning skills. In addition, RALs encouraged students to participate in campus activities and conducted workshops in residence.

ESL Services

ESL services were busier than ever during the Fall 2009 semester. One-to-one appointments are the most successful way for us to meet our students' diverse and individualized academic needs. When compared to the same period last year, this past fall semester brought us a **27% increase in ESL appointments**. That total breaks down to a **21% increase in the number of ESL appointments for Durham College students** and a **37% increase in ESL appointments for UOIT students**. Typically, these appointments involve assisting students with assignment clarification, academic writing, grammar support, pronunciation skills, and fluency development.

We also offered **26 workshops** in a variety of skills including Writing for the Health Sciences, Punctuation Review, Editing Skills, Presentation Skills, Academic Success (Acculturation) and our new Practicum Communication. [Download the 2010 Winter semester ESL workshop schedule.](#)

Our Conversation Partners program, part of the co-curricular recognition program, attracted a large number of native English speaking student volunteers who were interested in partnering with ESL student volunteers for conversation and cultural exchange.

Our newly developed tip sheets covering grammar, punctuation, spelling, and vocabulary were well utilized in the Fall. We would ask that you refer your ESL students to us to enquire about these helpful tip sheets.

Faculty and Staff continue to play an important role in shaping our services. Based on feedback, requests, and referrals, we continually strive to improve our services and help our students, from both UOIT and Durham College, succeed in their programs. We would like to thank you all for your continued support and referrals.

First Generation Project

This fall the Learner Support Centre provided a variety of online supports to assist First Generation students' transition into the post-secondary learning community with increased comfort and success. Students are now able to access resources for learning skills development, academic acculturation, and technology "how-to" instruction 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

In addition to these online resources, the LSC worked closely with the college's First Generation Coordinator to plan and facilitate the Success Matters workshop series. More than 1300 hours of support was provided to our first generation students in one-to-one appointments, subject specific clinics, and learning skills workshops. We also recorded **1875 First Generation student visits** to our computer lab.

Additional supports are in development and we look forward to assessing student satisfaction with our First Generation supports via an online survey in February 2010.

[View First Generation web resources](#)



ESL Appointments by Institution

	Fall 2008	Fall 2009	Growth
DC	262	316	21%
UOIT	173	237	37%
Total	435	553	27%

For information and ideas about **teaching ESL learners**, visit the DC/UOIT website: <http://x.dc-uoit.ca/eslearner/>

LSC Workshops

Workshops are limited to 15 students at a time. If you will require your students to attend workshops this semester, please advise us and have your students sign up at the LSC front desk at least two weeks before your deadline. With adequate notice, workshops can be added to the schedule. [Find the 2010 Winter semester LSC Workshop Schedules on this webpage.](#)

The schedules apply to both institutions.

Academic Writing Services

The Writing Specialist provides individual and group instruction to college and university students in areas such as essay and report writing, research strategies, academic citation format, avoiding plagiarism, grammar, and proofreading. As students' skills develop, they feel better equipped to approach a variety of writing tasks with integrity and confidence.

A total of 1580 students utilized the Academic Writing Services in the Fall 2009 semester; many students had individual appointments, while others attended workshops held in the Learner Support Centre or had workshops delivered in their class upon professors' request. **1087 students (69% of the total) were Durham College students** with the remaining **494 students (31% of the total) coming from UOIT.**

The APA and MLA citation workshops were the best attended both within the Learner Support Centre and during class visits by the Writing Specialist. The Proofreading Strategies workshop and Writing for the Health Sciences workshop were also very well attended.

If you feel that your students would benefit from a workshop, suggest they come to the front desk of the Learner Support Centre to sign up. If you would like a workshop delivered to your class, please contact Leslie.Linstrum@dc-uoit.ca as early as possible to arrange it.

Download [Academic Writing Services workshop descriptions](#) to view descriptions of the 11 Academic Writing Services workshops offered.

Download [Academic Writing Services workshop schedule](#) to view the winter 2010 schedule of workshops.

Learning Strategies Services

During the Fall 2009 semester, the Learner Support Centre offered the following Learning Skills Workshops: Keys to Success, Time Management, Thinking and Reading, Listening and Note-taking, Study Skills, and Test and Exam Preparation, which were attended by just over **1000 students!**

Weekly Subject-Specific Clinics such as Anatomy & Physiology, Accounting, Biology, Math, Statistics, and Physics were well attended, with over **390 student visits**. With the January intake of students, the number of weekly clinics that will be offered will increase. In addition, the LSC found more students were seeking assistance in Chemistry, and responded by planning Chemistry clinics for the General Arts and Science – Health Sciences Preparation program for the Winter semester.

In the Fall semester, the Learning Skills Advisors had **460 DC student visits** and **152 UOIT student visits**. Students visit the Learning Skills Advisors seeking one-to-one appointments for learning skills and/or subject specific support.

We look forward to fostering our excellent relationships with students and faculty of both Durham College and UOIT, and we are continually looking for new and innovative ways to promote student success.



Quick Fact

In the Fall 2009 semester, the number of students served by Academic Writing Services **grew by 29%** when compared with the same period from the year before.



Class Orientations to the LSC

Each semester during the academic year, the Learner Support Centre invites professors to book their classes in for an orientation to our services. During the 30-40 minute orientation, members of our team will introduce the students to the services they provide, as well as explain how these services are accessed. We are able to accommodate class sizes of up to 36 students and only offer this opportunity during the first month of each new semester. **Pre-booking is required, as time slots are limited, and the centre will be closed to the general student population during the orientations.**

For more information or to book an orientation for your class, contact John Hayes at the LSC at John.Hayes@dc-uoit.ca or at extension 2720.

As an alternative, you may wish to show your class our PowerPoint Orientation:

For Durham College

[PowerPoint Orientation to the LSC](#)

For UOIT

[PowerPoint Orientation to the LSC](#)

Contact Information

(click on a name to send an email)

[Willona Blanche](#): Director (ext. 2364)

[Nicky Patel](#): ESL Specialist (ext. 2438)

[Brett Clayton](#): Learning Skills Advisor (ext. 2297)

[John Hayes](#): Learning Skills Advisor (ext. 2720)

[Brenda Johnston](#): Learning Skills Advisor (ext. 2568)

[Leslie Linstrum](#): Writing Specialist (ext. 2588)

[Eric Gustavsen](#): ESL Specialist (ext. 2220)

[Nicole Mastnak](#): Learning Skills Advisor (ext. 3609)

[Melissa Provost](#): Learning Skills Advisor (ext. 2297)

[Kathy Bryers](#): Receptionist (ext. 2491)

For Durham College:

[Learner Support Centre](#) website
[PowerPoint Orientation to the LSC](#)

For UOIT:

[Learner Support Centre](#) website
[PowerPoint Orientation to the LSC](#)

Note: **Page 5** of this newsletter includes a diagram of the main services provided by the LSC.

Page 6 is a copy of the referral form used when referring your students to specific services at the LSC.

Student Academic Learning Services (SALS) Learner Support Centre

University Peer Writing Tutors
Meet with senior students for tutoring in academic writing.

College Peer Tutoring
Meet with an upper year student to review course material.

Learning Strategies
Time Management
Organization Skills
Study Strategies
Test / Exam Preparation
Memory Skills
Note Taking Skills

Writing Skills
MLA / APA Referencing
Essay Organization
Preventing Plagiarism
Proofreading and Editing Skills
Research Strategies
Grammar & Punctuation Instruction
Presentation skills

ESL Supports
Writing Supports
Reviewing Assignments
Grammar Editing Skills
Pronunciation Skills
Punctuation

What do you need?

Subject Specific Supports

- Science**
Biology
Physics
Chemistry
- Technology**
Statistics
Applied Math
Calculus
- Business**
Computers
Math
Accounting
Statistics
- Software**
Math
English
Chemistry & Biology
Physics

Come meet our integrated team of academic support specialists in SW201
or call us at 905.721.2000 ext. 2491

