

THE UNIVERSITY OF TAMPA

ACADEMIC SUCCESS CENTER

GROWTH
ACADEMIC SUCCESS
RESOURCES
Preparation
SUPPORT
SUCCEED
EXCELLENCE
COACHING
MENTORING
GUIDANCE
LIFELONG LEARNING
EMPOWERED TO
PURSUIT OF
PROFESSIONAL





PUTTING YOU AT THE **CENTER**

Letter from the Directors

Welcome to the Academic Success Center at The University of Tampa! The ASC is uniquely designed to serve as a **one-stop shop** for the services that will help you reach your academic goals at UT. From pre-registration through graduation, we provide support through each phase of your collegiate journey. Whether you want to explore a new major, seek advice on courses, find a tutor or academic coach, enhance your academic skills, get support for a disability or explore the strengths that make you uniquely you, **we are here to guide you.**

The ASC was created from a collaboration of three university offices: Academic Excellence Programs, Academic Advising and Student Transition and Persistence. The ASC dedicates itself to helping all UT students identify and strengthen their academic abilities and enhance their university experience. Our goal is to remove barriers to academic success and **ensure smooth transitions** as you proceed from high school, to college, to graduate school or professional life.

We know that on a daily basis you will encounter exciting new experiences as well as some challenging ones, and the services we provide are designed to assist you with discovering and implementing the best solutions for academic achievement. Our experienced and dedicated staff members are committed to **providing personal attention and individualized plans** to help you excel academically and graduate on time.

Students who participate in services offered by the ASC are more likely to see **improvements in their academic performance** as well as their overall UT experience. We encourage you to stop by and visit us anytime to learn more about our services. We look forward to learning and growing with you!

In Spartan Pride,

*Stacey M. Davis, Lorie A. Kittendorf and Beatrice L. Smith
Directors of the Academic Success Center*

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SUPPORTING ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

UT's Academic Success Center provides support programs designed to assist students in their pursuit of academic excellence. Through services ranging from tutoring and mentoring to degree planning and study skills training, students are empowered to take responsibility for their intellectual development and academic success, and to become lifelong learners.

As a one-stop student center, ASC provides students free access to numerous personalized services, including:

- Academic advising
- Peer tutoring
- Workshops on study skills, time management, goal setting and more
- Course scheduling and degree planning
- Academic coaching
- Peer mentoring
- Testing services
- Strengths assessments workshops
- Major exploration
- Support for first-generation students
- Services for students with disabilities
- Referrals to other campus resources
- Strategies for students overcoming academic obstacles

Students who visit the Academic Success Center benefit from:

- An increased GPA
- Improved performance in difficult courses
- Enhanced life skills
- Smoother transitions from high school, to college, to graduate school or professional life
- On-time graduation



ACADEMIC SUCCESS CENTER

Located in the center of campus in North Walker Hall, the Academic Success Center is a collaborative effort combining Academic Excellence Programs, Academic Advising and Student Transition and Persistence.



PARTNERS IN YOUR SUCCESS

Recognizing that each student has an individual learning style, the ASC's **Academic Excellence Programs** strive to help students attain and enhance a variety of skills. Services are provided in a holistic manner to address the emotional, social and vocational aspects of learning, and to support students' academic achievement.

Peer Tutoring Walk-in tutoring is offered for traditionally challenging courses, including accounting, mathematics, economics, biology, chemistry, physics and foreign languages. Tutoring is also available for graduate-level courses.

UT provides nearly 10,000 hours of tutoring services each year.

Academic Exploration Choosing or changing a major is an important process that deserves time and exploration. Expert staff help students discover their academic interests and identify their strengths as they consider their degree options at UT.

Academic Skills Courses and Workshops A variety of special courses and workshops are offered each semester to help students learn college-level study skills, note-taking tips, critical-thinking skills and more.

Academic Coaching UT's Coaching for Student Success program matches undergraduate students with trained academic coaches who meet with them weekly to discuss topics such as study skills, time management, goal setting, motivation, test-taking strategies and campus engagement. **UT students who participate in academic coaching increase their GPA by approximately 0.3.**

Integrated Skills Training The STEP UP program assists students who want to improve academically and achieve a higher level of performance. STEP UP consists of specially designed courses and coaching integrated within each student's degree program. Students may elect to participate in the program, or be referred by a faculty member or advisor.

SOAR Program The SOAR (Students Overcoming Academic Roadblocks) Program empowers students to both identify and reach their desired academic success outcomes. Staff members are devoted to connecting students to the resources that will allow them to take ownership of their academic experiences.

Student Disability Services The ASC is committed to compliance with all Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements, and to providing students accommodations for equal access. Through various support services, students with disabilities are encouraged in their self-advocacy and independence.

Testing Services The Testing Center provides CLEP testing, distance exams and other testing services.

For more information about these services, visit www.ut.edu/aep.



The tutors in the Academic Success Center have helped me review class notes and grasp concepts necessary to complete homework assignments. All tutors are students who have successfully completed the courses, so they can guide others through challenging topics.”

— **Jose Andres Fernandez Tomaselli '20**

biochemistry major, mathematics minor

MEDLIFE UT volunteer organization

Caracas, Venezuela

On average, **95%** of students who engage in at least four hours of tutoring improve their grade.



At the Academic Success Center, we are committed to helping students grow academically, personally and professionally. Our programs and services provide opportunities for student engagement outside of the classroom that promotes major exploration, connections to campus resources, mentoring relationships with peers, lifelong learning and the development of skills necessary for success at UT and beyond.”

— **Stacey M. Davis, M.A.**

Director of Academic Excellence Programs





GUIDING YOUR PATH

For many students, the pressure of choosing a major can feel overwhelming. *Am I making the right choice? Will my major dictate my career path for life? What if I pick a program that's not right for me? What if I just need more time to decide?*

UT's Academic Exploration program is designed to assist students in the important process of selecting their major. Whether you are completely undecided, have narrowed down your choices or realize you are in the wrong major, meeting with a trained exploration specialist is your first step in discovering your perfect fit.

Academic exploration specialists help students identify and examine their areas of interest by:

- Reviewing the areas of study offered at The University of Tampa
- Assessing your personality type and determining your career goals
- Guiding you through a self-exploration process to discover your academic interests, passions and strengths
- Equipping you with the tools to explore your options and make academic decisions
- Helping you understand the curriculum demands of different majors

Selecting a major is a big decision that deserves considerable attention. All students are encouraged to take advantage of the resources UT offers and invest time into finding the right major. Even if you're certain that you know what you want to choose, it is still wise to meet with an academic exploration specialist to discuss your long-term academic goals, curriculum requirements and more.

Prepare for your meeting by spending some time reflecting on the subjects you most enjoy learning about, and the unique skill sets you possess. Write a list of majors you are considering and the reasons why you think they would be a good fit. It is also helpful to talk to faculty, older students and professionals you respect in your areas of interest.

TIPS FOR SELECTING A MAJOR

- Be open to new ideas! College is a time to identify and explore your passions.
- Get the most out of your Baccalaureate Experience core by taking courses you find intriguing. They might lead you down a path you've never considered.
- Don't underestimate the role your interests play in your academic success. Imagine spending four years studying a subject you don't enjoy.
- Evaluate your abilities. You have a set of strengths and weaknesses that are uniquely you. Think about how your skills fit with the different majors at UT.
- Don't assume that one major leads down one career path. There are multiple paths to most careers, and a single major can lead to multiple opportunities. Students can learn to create their own path. Remember, this is *your* unique educational experience, and you can tailor it how you wish.

To schedule an appointment with an academic exploration specialist, visit www.ut.edu/aep/exploration.



SOAR: STUDENTS OVERCOMING ACADEMIC ROADBLOCKS

"The best laid plans of mice and men often go awry" — so goes the line from poet Robert Burns. Students do not start college planning to encounter academic obstacles, but sometimes their journey hits an unforeseen roadblock. Before you can begin developing an academic success plan, you need to identify the obstacles preventing you from performing to your fullest potential.

Common reasons why students may struggle to earn the grades they desire include not understanding the rigors of college courses, a lack of time management skills and trouble adjusting to the college environment. **SOAR** is a unique academic program that provides students with strategies, coaching and personal development that enable them to get back on track. Stop by the Academic Success Center to learn more.

To schedule an appointment with a SOAR program specialist, visit www.ut.edu/aep/soar.





ACADEMIC ADVISING

THE RIGHT ADVICE WHEN YOU NEED IT

Academic advising is a collaborative effort between professional academic advisors and dedicated ASC staff, along with faculty members from each of UT's four colleges.

The ASC's academic advising services include:

- Assisting new students with registration and providing an introduction to academic requirements and policies prior to arrival on campus
- Serving as primary academic advisors for first-year students
- Providing continuing students with accurate information on academic policies and procedures in collaboration with faculty advisors
- Assisting with curriculum and program planning
- Disseminating information and procedures related to academic petitions and appeals
- Referring students to appropriate resources both within the Academic Success Center and across campus.

The ASC's academic advisors are ready to provide assistance to students in all areas of their academic career. They can also help with interpreting academic policies and procedures and in linking you to other academic resources and opportunities at UT.

Academic advisors also serve as a resource for faculty advisors and as liaisons to departments and other campus offices on academic matters and an array of administrative services related to academics and registration.

To learn more about these services, visit www.ut.edu/academicadvising.



Our primary goal is to serve as a resource that students can consistently count on to assist them with having a successful and fulfilling academic experience at UT. Providing these services in a central location makes the Academic Success Center the ideal first-stop resource for students when questions arise related to their academics and progression toward graduation."

— **Beatrice L. Smith, M.S.**
Director of Academic Advising



One of UT's greatest attributes is the Academic Success Center. As a pre-health major, I've been able to work with a special advisor who has guided me exactly where I need to be. She along with the rest of the advisors are extremely helpful and truly do put their students first."

— **Vanessa Labert '20**
biology-pre-med major
Pre-Physicians Assistant Association,
Best Buddies, PEACE Volunteer Center
Olyphant, PA



PRE-HEALTH AND PRE-LAW ADVISING

UT provides specialized advising and services to students planning to pursue law school, medical school and other clinical health fields. A designated academic program specialist helps students select appropriate pre-requisite classes and advises them on studying for admission tests, preparing application packages and getting involved in meaningful activities on campus and in the community. Ninety-five percent of UT students who apply to graduate school are admitted, pursuing advanced studies in fields ranging from business, law, medicine and economics to education, psychology and social work.

Visit www.ut.edu/preprofessional to learn more.



A HOLISTIC APPROACH

The Academic Success Center strives for all students to feel included, supported and informed throughout their academic journey at UT. Staff members conduct empowerment workshops, develop interventions for students experiencing academic or social challenges and manage programs targeting underrepresented or at-risk student populations to help them during their transition to UT, and their persistence from semester to semester.

Strengths Initiative All students at UT have the opportunity to complete the StrengthsFinder™ assessment, which identifies each participant's top five natural talents. Workshops are available throughout the year to provide an ongoing conversation regarding the use and application of these talents. Students learn ways to turn their talents into strengths so they can be leveraged for academic, career and personal success. They are also encouraged to apply their strengths as they choose their major, select classes, work on group projects and study for exams.

Any student who wishes to complete the StrengthsFinder™ assessment should email strengths@ut.edu to request an access code. More than 5,000 UT students have identified their talents and strengths through this program.

Early Interventions Specialists provide outreach to students who have been identified by faculty or staff as exhibiting academic, attendance or behavioral issues that are causing concern and could interfere with academic success. They also assist students who are experiencing financial difficulties, delays with registering for classes or challenges navigating university policies. Students are assisted with creating a master plan to identify their goals and navigate obstacles on the path to graduation. Through this process, students are empowered to take responsibility for their own education and learning.

Success Scholars Program UT has developed a program that provides scholarships, mentoring, academic enrichment activities and work-study jobs to approximately 500 students each year. Participants are members of underrepresented populations and/or first-generation college students. The program was created with the knowledge that first-generation and historically underrepresented students may face special challenges in transitioning to college life. Eligible students are invited to opt in to the Success Scholars program as part of their first semester at UT and can remain with the program through graduation. Each student is assigned to a trained peer mentor who plans the unique program opportunities and events that allow Success Scholars to connect to peers, faculty and community, creating a supportive network and helping students develop a sense of place. Active Success Scholars are also eligible for additional financial support for textbooks, alternative break trips and summer tuition.



The most important part of our job is to create connections with our students during every step of the academic journey, from orientation to graduation. We want each student to know that they matter and that we are here to assist them with any challenges they may encounter. We help them discover who they are, what they do best and how to be successful in their academic pursuits and beyond.

— **Lorie A. Kittendorf, Ph.D.**
Director of Student Transition and Persistence



As an incoming freshman, I was nervous I wouldn't find a group where I could fit in. The Success Scholars Program changed all of that! I gained a large group of friends and a mentor to help me through the start of college. With weekly events and unlimited support, I have excelled in exploring my interests and the college experience."

— **Kohta Hansen '20**
criminology major, business administration and psychology minors
Success Scholar, choral member, student employee in the Office of Career Services
Mukilteo, WA



Success Scholars participate in team-building events on campus and during special excursions to local retreat centers and Disney World.

TRANSITION and PERSISTENCE

Peer Mentoring Successful UT students are powerful supports when they become mentors for their peers. Research shows that peer mentors are essential to helping students acclimate to university life, develop support networks and enhance self-discipline and goal-setting skills. Additionally, the peer mentors enhance their own leadership skills and play a significant role on campus as liaisons between students and university administration.

All students in the Success Scholars programs are connected with a peer mentor called a SPEAR (Spartan Peer Educating About Resources), and a graduate student who has been trained as an academic coach. This opportunity is also available, upon recommendation of parents, faculty or staff, to other UT students who are experiencing challenges.

UT CARES (Concern, Advocacy, Resources, Empowerment and Support) is a campus-wide collaborative effort to identify students who may be facing challenges in multiple aspects of their college journey. This team consists of individuals from Campus Safety, Student Disability Services, Academic Advising, Student Conduct, Residence Life, Wellness, International Programs, Victim's Advocacy and Student Transition and Persistence, and also includes input from faculty and staff across campus. Early identification of students who may be at risk provides the best opportunity for creating the support network needed to help them identify positive options and create a plan to move forward..

Enhanced Communication All UT students receive regular, personalized emails from the ASC to equip them with the information needed to be responsible decision-makers and proactive participants in their academic journey. University processes and policies can feel overwhelming to students, so the ASC strives to simplify and clarify this information for easier navigation.

FOCUS ON NATURAL STRENGTHS AND TALENTS

Research has shown that individuals who focus on developing their natural strengths and talents are more:

- Positive in their outlook for their future
- Engaged in learning
- Effective leaders and group members
- Skilled at communicating and resolving conflicts

To learn more about these programs, visit www.ut.edu/stp.



CONNECT, EXCEL, SUCCEED



A WEALTH OF RESOURCES AT YOUR SERVICE

Students at The University of Tampa have access to a wide variety of resources for academic and personal growth and professional preparation. The Academic Success Center is pleased to collaborate with numerous departments working to encourage and support students in their pursuit of academic and co-curricular achievement. Campus resources include:

First-Year Experience UT has established an innovative first-year program designed to help new students fit in quickly, set goals and acquire the skills needed to excel in their academic careers. Upon arrival at UT, each student is assigned to a yearlong First-Year Experience or Pathway to Honors course, composed of approximately 20 students with similar interests. Student mentors work together with dedicated faculty to introduce first-year students to the differences between high school and college, including study tips. Students also learn about the Baccalaureate Experience (UT's required core curriculum) and strategies for planning their course schedule. [For more information, visit www.ut.edu/freshman/firstyear](http://www.ut.edu/freshman/firstyear), www.ut.edu/gateways and www.ut.edu/baccalaureate.

Saunders Writing Center The Saunders Writing Center provides one-on-one tutoring to students wishing to improve their writing and composition skills. An excellent resource for students of all writing abilities, the center is staffed by experienced student writers under the guidance of English department faculty. Students are invited to stop by with required writing assignments, as well as short stories, poems, articles or any other writing projects. [The Saunders Writing Center is located in Plant Hall, room 323. For more information or to schedule an appointment, visit www.ut.edu/academic-support/saunders](http://www.ut.edu/academic-support/saunders) or call (813) 253-6244.

Office for Student Leadership and Engagement With 230 clubs, student organizations and teams, UT offers abundant opportunities for students to meet friends, learn new skills, volunteer in the community and gain leadership experience. The Office of Student Leadership and Engagement (OSLE) helps connect students with activities designed for personal and academic enrichment. (For a list of student organizations, visit www.ut.edu/studentorgs.) With guidance from OSLE, all students are encouraged to develop a co-curricular transcript to present alongside their résumé to prospective employers and graduate schools. [The Office for Student Leadership and Engagement is located in the Vaughn Center, room 215. For more information, visit www.ut.edu/studentengagement](http://www.ut.edu/studentengagement), call (813) 253-6233 or email studentengagement@ut.edu.

Office of Career Services The Office of Career Services helps prepare students for a successful transition from campus life to the professional world. With activities ranging from job fairs and mock interviews to résumé-writing workshops and career counseling, Career Services is committed to the professional development of every student. The office hosts regular networking events, as well as test-prep classes for graduate school entrance exams. A full-time coordinator oversees UT's robust internship program, providing more than 1,000 opportunities annually. [HIRE UT, an online resource exclusively for UT students and alumni, posts job openings from more than 9,500 on- and off-campus employers. The Office of Career Services is located in the Riverside Center, room 116. For more information, visit www.ut.edu/career](http://www.ut.edu/career) or call (813) 258-7271.





PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION GROWTH

Macdonald-Kelce Library Offering a quiet and comfortable environment, the Macdonald-Kelce Library presents an ideal place for students to study, conduct research and work with classmates on projects. The two-story, centrally located library provides more than 275,000 books and 65,181 periodicals, as well as online research databases, a computer lab, study rooms, reference assistance and bibliographic instruction. Open hours are extended during final exam periods.

To learn more, visit www.ut.edu/library, email library@ut.edu or call (813) 253-6231.

UT Center for Public Speaking Public speaking skills are essential for success academically and professionally. Overseen by the Department of Speech, Theatre and Dance, the UT Center for Public Speaking offers one-on-one tutoring and small-group workshops to help students improve their ability to plan, write and deliver effective speeches. Students also learn techniques for managing public speaking anxiety. To learn more, visit www.ut.edu/speakingcenter.



www.ut.edu

Accolades for The University of Tampa

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- UT is named one of the nation's best institutions for undergraduate education by The Princeton Review. Only 15 percent of four-year colleges in the U.S. share this honor. The Princeton Review has also rated UT's Sykes College of Business one of the best business schools in the world since 2007.
- *U.S. News & World Report* ranks UT in the top tier of the category Regional Universities (South). It names the Sykes College of Business a "Best Business School" and rates UT's graduate nursing program among the "Best Health Schools."
- UT is included on *Forbes'* ranking of America's Top Colleges. The list is based on factors such as educational quality, graduation rates and career prospects.
- UT's chapter of Phi Kappa Phi — the nation's oldest and most selective collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines — has been recognized as a Chapter of Merit. The award is given to chapters that excel in promoting academic excellence and engaging in service to others.
- UT is regularly named to the President's Service Honor Roll for its work on service-learning programs and volunteer opportunities for students, faculty and staff, who serve 300,000 hours annually at more than 300 organizations.



The University of Tampa admits students of both sexes and all races, regardless of their age, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sexual orientation and/or any handicap. This policy of nondiscrimination extends in letter and spirit to all areas of a student's experience at the University.

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