

Learning Commons



Every year more than 6,000 undergraduate students use Learning Commons programming, many of whom are in their first or second year at UC.

www.uc.edu/learningcommons

(513) 556-3244

University of
CINCINNATI  LEARNING COMMONS

Purpose of the Learning Commons

- Provide *free*, centralized, easily accessible academic & social supports for students across all majors at the University of Cincinnati
- We are a hub that brings together faculty, best-practices in teaching and learning, and hundreds of outstanding peer educators to create flexible academic success programming
- Oversee innovative and engaging first-year programs to help students succeed on campus
- Specialize in helping our first year students to transition successfully onto campus with targeted programs including the UC's Learning Communities

UC's Culture of Peer-to-Peer Engagement

Research shows that high impact practices (HIP) such as peer-to-peer interaction promote student success. UC invests in programs and offices that help facilitate these peer-to-peer interactions, many of which take place in Learning Commons programs:

- Participating in small group activities
- Working with other students on projects or assignments
- Preparing for exams by working through course material with other students
- Asking other students to help them understand course material



Learning Communities

- Our **Learning Communities** provide a cohesive learning experience centered around courses that fulfill core requirements
- Groups of about 20-30 students and faculty members come together to interact in two or more university courses
- There are more than 200 different Learning Communities available to students at the University of Cincinnati
- Learning Communities are led by **Peer Leaders**: upper-class students who provide academic support and mentorship, and who facilitate the Learning Community meeting time (1-2 seminars per week)

Subject Supports

Supplemental Instruction (SI)

- A series of weekly peer-led study sessions for "historically difficult" courses
- Flexible, no appointment needed

Math and Science Support (MASS) Center

- Small group tutoring
- Drop-in, no appointment needed

Peer Tutoring

- One-on-one appointment-based service for over 200 courses
- Students can sign up online 24/7

Fall schedules will be available online at
www.uc.edu/learningcommons closer to the start of the semester



**Be proactive rather than
reactive and come to
services early!**

Academic Writing Center (AWC)

- Located in Langsam Library 401N
- The **Academic Writing Center** also offers:
 - One-on-one tutoring via appointment
 - Drop in tutoring
 - Online tutoring
- AWC tutors can help with writing assignments from any course as well as additional writing projects like cover letters, resumes, or scholarship essays



Supplemental Review Sessions (SRS)



- A one-credit math review session (MATH 1096) that runs in parallel to math courses
- This course is run by Learning Commons Peer Educators with material created by the Math faculty
- You can register during Orientation – check out the [SRS website](#) for the Fall schedule

Success Skills Supports

- Sometimes students want help getting organized and learning to be efficient and effective with their study time
 - We have more globally-focused programs like **Academic Coaching** and **Success Skill Workshops**
- These programs allow students to focus holistically on managing their learning, while also introducing them to campus resources and another UC student who has successfully navigated campus!
- Both programs have demonstrated strong academic outcomes. Students who see a Coach just 5-7 times a semester see an average GPA increase of 2/3 of a letter grade. Over time, students who participate in Academic Coaching are 10-15% more likely to persist toward their degree and have higher graduation rates than their peers.

Academic Coaching and Success Skills Workshops (SSW)

- **Academic Coaching**

- One-on-one, appointment-based program that focuses on skills development across courses
- Customized based on student need over the course of the semester
- Helps keep students motivated, organized, and efficient!

- **Success Skills Workshops**

- Follows many coaching topics, but in group settings
- Schedule is posted online and updated throughout the semester

Student Voices

Adjusting to Campus: "[the **Peer Leader**] truly made our LC a safe place for everyone in it. She taught us so many things, not just about the world around us but ourselves too and everyone in that room has noticeably grown as a person this year and it's all because of her [leadership]"

Motivation and Success Skills: "[The **Academic Coach**] I met with all semester had a significant impact on my studies and work ethic. She was extremely thorough and helpful when meeting with me, I always left feeling confident and at ease, never stressed or worried"

Content Mastery: "I feel more prepared for upcoming exams, quizzes, and homework sets now that [my **tutor**] explained some of the more difficult conceptual sides of questions."

Preparing for post-UC: "Working as a tutor has been a great way to practice my communication and interviewing skills"

Work at the Learning Commons!



- We employ 300+ students to serve 6500+ students every year!
- All positions are open to students after their first year with the exception of peer tutoring which allows for 2nd semester freshman to work.
- Learning Commons employees are able to
 - Impact their peers
 - Develop leadership and teaching skills that look great on resumes
 - Build connections to faculty and staff across campus
 - Counts as an internship
 - Work with an amazing collection of colleagues!

Questions?

Contact Information

Website: www.uc.edu/learningcommons

Email: learningcommons@uc.edu

The Learning Commons is actively preparing to serve students during the Fall semester. All Learning Commons programs have been transitioned online. The most up to date information can be found at the website above.