ACADEMIC SKILLS PROGRAM

Keyword: Learning Assistance

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Program Overview
The Academic Skills Program provides support services to students who need to improve or refresh their learning skills. Many students require comprehensive development in the areas of writing, reading, mathematics, and/or study skills. General education requirements make the Academic Skills Program courses essential for many students. ACSK A010, A015 and/or A090 may represent the most appropriate beginning level courses in English and mathematics. These courses are part of a sequence designed to help students complete the university's writing and mathematics competency requirements. Reading courses, ACSK A083 and A085, are intended to prepare students for university level reading expectations. Computer-enhanced instruction is available in the mathematics courses and offers students an alternate instructional delivery system using interactive software to complement teacher presentation and communication. Academic skills courses are not available for audit. With the exception of the following courses—ACSK 100, ACSK 105, ACSK 120 and ACSK 153—credit earned in academic skills courses does not count toward the 120 credits required for graduation.

Courses in Academic Skills (ACSK):

A011 Essential Math Skills ................................................. 2 cr
Prereq: Completion of departmentally-mandated minimal number of ACSK A010 proficiencies. Consent of instructor required. Freq: Winterim, Summer.
Designed as a Winterim/Summer opportunity for students to satisfy a limited number of incomplete proficiencies from an immediately prior Fall/Spring ACSK A010 without having to retake ACSK A010 in its entirety. Course graded on credit/no credit basis.

A015 Elementary Algebra .................................................. 4 cr
Prereq: ACSK A010 with a grade of C or better or a grade of CR; or ACSK A011 with a grade of CR; or appropriate placement score. Freq: Fall, Spring, Summer.
Review of basic algebra including real-number arithmetic, linear expressions and equations, linear applications, exponential and polynomial operations, polynomial factoring and equations, rational expressions and equations, linear graphing, systems of linear equations, and radicals. Some sections are available using computer-enhanced instruction. Course graded on credit/no credit basis. A grade of CR is required to proceed to the next level. Four hour lecture; supplemental discussion as warranted by individual student course performance.

A016 Elementary Algebra Lab ........................................... 2 cr
Prereq: Completion of departmentally-mandated minimal number of ACSK A015 proficiencies. Consent of instructor required. Freq: Winterim, Summer.
Designed as a Winterim/Summer opportunity for students to satisfy a limited number of incomplete proficiencies from an immediately prior Fall/Spring ACSK A015 without having to retake ACSK A015 in its entirety. Course graded on credit/no credit basis.

A070 Learning Strategies .................................................... 1 cr
Prereq: None. Freq: Fall, Spring.
Essential academic learning and study skills including academic responsibility, goal setting, time management, stress management, effective listening, note taking, textbook reading, and test taking.

A083 College Reading and Learning Strategies ................. 2 cr
Prereq: None. Freq: Fall, Spring.
Builds a foundation for efficient college reading. Develops reading strategies that generalize to other university classes. Enhances students’ concentration, comprehension and retention through discussion and practice. Learning outcomes includes identifying stated or implied main ideas, analyzing supporting details, paraphrasing accurately, and annotating effectively. Includes essential academic learning and study skills such as time management, enhancing memory, effective listening, note taking, test taking, and academic responsibility. Course graded on credit/no credit basis. Satisfactory completion of this course must take place in the first two semesters of enrollment.
A085  Academic Reading .................................................. 1 cr  
Prereq: None. Freq: Fall, Spring.  
Similar in content and focus to ACSK A083, but course work is completed at a faster pace. Students are expected to be more independent in their mastery of the readings. Provides extended practice in increasing reading rate while maintaining adequate comprehension. Course graded on credit/no credit basis.

A090  Composition Preparation........................................... 3 cr  
Prereq: None. Freq: Fall, Spring.  
Writing workshop, including peer review and teacher feedback on essay and term paper assignments. Process of writing approach: brainstorming, free writing, rough draft, revision, and editing. Grammar review in context. A grade of C or CR is required to proceed to the next level. Course graded on credit/no credit basis.

A091  Special Topics in Academic Skills..............................1-4 cr  
Prereq: Consent of instructor. Freq: Occasionally.  
Selected topics in academic skills will be examined.

A092  Career Exploration and Planning ............................... 2 cr  
Prereq: None. Freq: Spring.  
For students who need assistance with the process of choosing careers and academic majors, this course is designed to help develop abilities in self-assessment of interests, skills, values and goals, career exploration, and preparing for employment in the 21st century.

A094  Reading and Writing ................................................ 5 cr  
Prereq: Placement into ACSK A090 (Composition Preparation) and either ACSK A083 or A085 (Reading). Freq: Occasionally.  
Provides college reading strategies and structured writing experiences in various themes such as cross-cultural issues, media, environmental issues, etc.

A095  Basic Computer Skills for College.............................. 1 cr  
Prereq: None. Freq: Fall, Spring.  
For students with little or no computer experience. It includes basics of hardware management, word processing, spreadsheets, basic Powerpoint, use of the Internet for research, and an introduction to email.

B100  English as a Second Language Seminar .....................3 cr  
Prereq: None. Freq: Occasionally.  
Designed for English as a second language students pursuing college level course work. Language instruction through topics addressing public speaking, discussions, vocabulary concepts for college thinking, and cultural adjustment. Course may be repeated; maximum of 3 credits apply toward graduation.

B105  Library Skills for Research ...................................... 1 cr  
Prereq: None. Freq: Fall, Spring.  
An introduction to the organization, retrieval, and evaluation of both print and electronic information resources. Students will navigate and use the resources from different areas of the library’s homepages to access items linked from, but not found within, the library’s specific domain. Topics include formulating search strategies and the critical evaluation of information, whether in print or online.

B120  Introduction to Critical Thinking ............................... 1 cr  
Prereq: None. Freq: Fall, Spring, Summer.  
Designed to develop students’ critical thinking in combination with extended orientation and skill building to increase student success in college. Structured around a text, the course will develop critical thinking through discussions and assignments as well as improve oral presentation, project management and teamwork.

B153  Critical Reading .................................................... 2 cr  
Prereq: Completion of ACSK A083 with a C or better; placement in ACSK A085 or above; permission of instructor. Freq: Fall, Spring, Summer.  
Designed to develop students’ ability to read critically. Structured around a variety of verbal, visual and written texts, students will learn to summarize and analyze informational and persuasive texts from across the disciplines to increase students’ academic success as well as improve oral presentation, project management and teamwork skills.