ACADEMIC SKILLS PROGRAM

Keyword: *Learning Assistance*

Instructional Staff:
Bickham, M.A.; Otto, M.S.; R. Pinnow, M.S.; Ramirez, M.A.; Tong, M.A.; Tutlewski, M.A.; Wiesner, M.S.

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 competence 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. Credit earned in academic skills courses generally does not count toward the 120 credits required for graduation but the grade earned does affect the GPA. ACSK 100, ESL 100, ACSK 105, and ACSK 120 are exceptions and the grades earned in these courses do affect the GPA.

Courses in Academic Skills (ACSK):

A010   Essential Math Skills ....3 cr
Prereq: None. Freq: Fall, Spring, Summer.
Review of arithmetic from whole numbers, fractions, decimals to percent. Introduction to elementary algebra including the arithmetic of integers, simple algebraic expressions and equations, and geometric formulas and figures. This course should be followed by ACSK A015. A grade of C or better is required to advance to the next level. Some sections are available using computer-enhanced instruction.

A015   Elementary Algebra ....4 cr
Prereq: ACSK A010 with a grade of C or better or appropriate placement score. Freq: Fall, Spring, Summer.
Review of basic algebra including integers, algebraic expressions, equations and inequalities, integer exponents, radicals, graphing, and systems of equations. Some sections are available using computer-enhanced instruction. A grade of C or better is required to proceed to the next level.

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 ....3 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. Includes essential academic learning and study skills such as time management, enhancing memory, effective listening, note taking, test taking, and academic responsibility. A grade of C or better is required. 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.

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 better is required to proceed to the next level.

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.

UNDERGRADUATE

A094 Reading and Writing ....5 cr
Prereq: Placement into ACSKA 090 (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 e-mail.

100 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.

105 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.

120 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

UNDERGRADUATE

www.uwp.edu