Academic Achievement Center
Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is Academic Coaching?
A: Academic Coaching is a free service for any K-State student which focuses on goal development, and tool acquisition for academic and personal success. Academic Coaching puts an emphasis on helping students learn processes and best practices for important skills they will use throughout college and beyond. Students work with professional Academic Coaches to develop skills in time management, study strategies, test taking, reading and note taking, as well as personal wellness, motivation, belonging, and communication.

Q: How is Academic Coaching different from Tutoring Services?
A: Tutoring is focused on learning the content of a specific course, while Academic Coaching focuses on building holistic skills for academic and personal success which can be applied to any course. While tutoring may help students understand concepts from math, physics, biology, chemistry, etc., Academic Coaching talks about time management, study skills, motivation, etc.

Q: How can I (or my student) sign up for Academic Coaching?
A: Fill out the Request a Coach form on the Academic Coaching website.

Q: What happens after I (or my student) sign up for Academic Coaching?
A: Students receive an email to our online appointment sign up and then visit Holton Hall 101 for Academic Coaching meetings about four times a semester (~ 1x per month). During Covid, these will be offered virtually. Academic Coaches help students make a SMART goal and a GPA goal for the semester and implement evidenced-based strategies that meet individualized needs to achieve their goal.

Q: Why did I (or my student) receive information about Academic Coaching as a requirement?
A: Academic Coaching is a requirement for students who did not meet admission standards for the university. You would know if you were required to meet with an academic coach based on your admissions letter. This is most likely based on a combination of standardized testing score (ACT/SAT), high school GPA, and/or class rank. If you believe you are not supposed to be signed up for Academic Coaching, please contact the Office of Admissions.

Q: What is the Office of First-generation Students?
A: The Office of First-generation Students supports first-generation students by connecting them to campus resources, coordinating efforts across the university, and fostering a first-generation community. A student is “first-generation” if neither of their parent(s)/guardian(s) graduated from a four-year university.

Q: Am I a first-generation student?
A: A student is “first-generation” if neither of their parent(s)/guardian(s) graduated from a four-year university – they will be the first in their families to graduate from college. Students are first-generation even if they have siblings or extended family that attend or graduated a four-year university.
Q: What is tutoring?
A: The Academic Achievement Center’s Tutoring Services offers free, small group, course-based tutoring that is open to all K-State students. If you visit the Academic Achievement Center website, we have information about AAC tutoring and other tutoring options across campus.

Q: How do I sign up for Tutoring Services?
A: Visit the Tutoring Services page on the Academic Achievement Center website. Look at the schedule for drop-in tutoring or follow the instructions to sign up for a tutoring session that fits within your schedule. You can also visit Holtz Hall to set up or ask questions about tutoring.

Q: What is drop-in tutoring?
A: Drop-in tutoring is organized by subject, such as Biology, Math, or Physics, rather than a specific course like BIOL198. Drop-in means you can just stop by at any time to get specific questions answered without making an appointment. Drop-in tutoring is held in Holtz Hall, Derby and Kramer Dining Centers, and the College of Business Building.

Q: How soon can I start tutoring?
A: Tutoring starts the second week of classes and ends on the Friday of dead week (week before finals) each semester.

Q: Who is my tutor?
A: Tutoring sessions are led by trained peer tutors – a K-State student who has excelled in the course or subject they’re tutoring.

Q: How long are tutoring sessions?
A: Scheduled tutoring appointments are 50 minutes long in order to fit into your class schedule. Drop-in tutoring provides immediate help so you do not need to schedule an appointment to attend. You can join for any length of time up to 50 minutes.

Q: Who uses tutoring?
A: Lots of different students use services from first-year students to seniors. High achieving students often use tutoring to boost grades while others may use tutoring for classes which are particularly challenging for them. We recommend everyone attend tutoring sessions at some point to see the benefit to deepen your understanding of content and increase your overall GPA.

Q: Can I receive one-on-one tutoring?
A: One-on-one tutoring is available for students who qualify for Educational Supportive Services (ESS). ESS is a TRIO program designed to support first-generation, income-limited, and students with disabilities earn undergraduate degrees. To learn more and apply, visit the ESS website.

Q: What is Scholar Services?
A: Scholar Services works with students in a variety of scholarship programs to provide access to resources, build scholarship communities, and ensure student success. Learn more about First Scholars, Give Back Scholars, Kauffman Scholars, and KC Scholars. Visit our website for more information here.