

Teaching Forum Q & A

October 6, 2023

Science Learning Center

What is the Science Learning Center (SLC)?

The Science Learning Center is a state-of-the-art facility designed with student support in mind. It features an [organic chemistry center \(OC²\)](#), an [anatomy and physiology lab](#), a [microscope learning area](#), [virtual reality equipment](#), and provides tutoring services for a wide variety of science classes in other subject areas, except math courses or math in other science courses. Math tutoring services are available at the Math Learning Center (<https://www.fau.edu/mlc/>). All of the resources in the Science Learning Center are completely FREE of charge. Visit <https://www.fau.edu/class/science-learning-center/> for more information.

How do Students make an appointment?

Please refer to the attached document for the step-by-step guide to make an appointment.

Where is the Science Learning Center?

The Science Learning Center (SLC) is located in the Schmidt Family Complex for Academic and Athletic Excellence (SF 103). The Schmidt Family Complex (SF) is the new building between FAU Stadium and Parking Garage III. When you enter the main doors of the SF building, turn left and follow the hall, pass the Avron B. Fogelman Sports Museum and Owls Care Health Promotion, to the glass double doors of the Science Learning Center.

What classes are tutored in the Science Learning Center?

General Chemistry, Organic Chemistry, Biology Courses, College Physics, Nursing Courses, and other undergraduate courses within the College of Science. Currently some of tutoring services are offered virtually, depending on the location of the tutors.

Note that General Physics is an engineering course, and the tutoring is offered at the Business, Engineering & Language Lab. Currently each tutoring session is 50 minutes and students can sign out and sign in again if more time is needed.

What is the difference between SI and tutoring?

SI is called Supplemental Instruction where a SI leader would lead SI sessions in the class. SI leaders are required and paid to interact with faculty on a continued basis. SI sessions are offered

across the campus. The SI leader has more interaction with more students, while tutoring is offered to individuals only at the Science Learning Center.

How do I get an SI leader for my class?

Email the Science Learning Center at class@fau.edu to request an SI leader.

Why should I have an SI leader in my class?

The SI leaders are in the course to receive the most updated course content so they can prepare a review handout and SI sessions will be held either before or after class.

How do you hire your tutors?

Tutors usually excel at the course content (earned at least an A- in the course) and passed through the GPA check. They can be either undergraduate or graduate students. Undergraduate students may be paired with undergraduate tutors to form a peer-mentoring system. The tutors go through the level 1 training through the CRLA (College Reading and Learning Association) and begin the certification process before offering any tutoring activities.

How do students learn about science tutoring?

Faculty can include the information about the Science Learning Center in the syllabus and encourage students to get services.

What is required of faculty to help students get a tutoring position in the Center for Learning and Student Success? How can faculty get involved in hiring tutors, recommending tutors, and encouraging students to go to the Science Learning Center?

Faculty should encourage students to utilize the services provided by the Science Learning Center and can also recommend tutors and SI leaders. Faculty can also directly send the students to the center. The Center staff is available to meet with the faculty when needed.

Who do I contact if I have questions about science tutoring and SI?

You can email class@fau.edu or one of the center staff members listed on the following webpage: <https://www.fau.edu/class/general/contact/>

When is the Science Learning Center open?

Monday: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Tuesday: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Wednesday: 9 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Thursday: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Friday: 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

SLC is closed on all University observed holidays.

Prior to the final exam, the center offers extended hours on the Wednesday of the Reading Days every semester, through the Up Owl Night program at the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL).

Math Learning Center

Where is the Math Learning Center (MLC)?

The Math Learning Center is located at the General Classroom South 2nd floor, Room 211. The MLC offers FREE drop-in tutoring in-person and limited online tutoring sessions. In-person tutoring is available for ALL undergraduate mathematics courses. Visit <https://www.fau.edu/mlc/> for more information about the MLC.

What courses are supported by the MLC?

The MLC offers tutoring services for all undergraduate math courses. If assistance is needed with math content from a non-math course (e.g., Physics or Chemistry), the center can offer math remediation services. The faculty of the non-math course should reach out to Dr. Brittanney Adelman, Director of MLC, at mlc@fau.edu to arrange for tutoring.

What about graduate level courses?

If graduate students need math assistance, mostly in statistics, the MLC will try their best to help, although the MLC mostly offers services to undergraduate students.

How do students get help at the MLC? Do they need appointments?

Students do not need to make an appointment. Drop-ins are welcome for all undergraduate math courses. Appointments are 50 minutes, are small group (maximum 3 students), and cover a more limited selection of courses. Drop-in is one on one and usually each interaction is 2-10 minutes, depending on the difficulty of the problem/question. Students raise their hand virtually to get help (we have a virtual queue system). The tutor will come to assist for about 2-10 mins and then the student must get into the queue again if they have additional questions.

How do you hire tutors at the MLC and are they trained?

Tutors are hired both at the undergraduate and graduate levels and trained through CRLA (College Reading and Learning Association) certifications. GTAs (Graduate Teaching Assistants) make up half of MLC's staff and they are on stipend through the Math department but honor their 20 hours/week work assignment by teaching classes and tutoring at the MLC.

When is the Math Learning Center (MLC) open?

Dates of Operation: August 21 - December 8, 2023 (Fall2023 semester) -- **excluding** 9/4 (Labor Day), 11/10 (Veteran's Day observed), 11/22-11/26 (Thanksgiving Break). This information can always be found on the webpage www.fau.edu/mlc

Hours of Operation

Monday: 10:00 AM -5:00 PM

Tuesday: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Wednesday: 10:00 AM -5:00 PM

Thursday: 10:00 AM -5:00 PM

Friday: 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Online tutoring is available on evenings and weekends when the MLC is closed for in-person tutoring. Check the webpage for days/times and how to join. Prior to the final exam, the center offers extended hours on the Wednesday of the Reading Days every semester, through the Up Owl Night program at the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL).

Quality Enhancement Plan - Expansion of the Learning Assistant Program

How can the QEP (Quality Enhancement Plan) help faculty to redesign their courses incorporating the Learning Assistants (LA)?

A Learning Assistant (LA) Program supports LAs, faculty and students by transforming courses so they are more closely aligned with research based instructional strategies. At Florida Atlantic, this may look slightly different depending on the class, as the courses are individually redesigned by our faculty, with support of LA professionals. Learning Assistants (LAs) are undergraduate students who, through the guidance of weekly preparation sessions and a pedagogy course, facilitate discussions among groups of students in a variety of classroom settings that encourage active engagement. An open call to apply for course redesign with LAs will be sent to the university community each Fall semester. Faculty who are selected for redesign will participate in LA Faculty Learning Community (LA FLC) activities during the Spring semester and implement the new LA course in the following Fall. A stipend of \$4000.00 is awarded.

What is the difference between a TA (Teaching Assistant) and Learning Assistant (LA)?

TAs mostly assist the instructor in delivering the course content, evaluation, and grading. While LAs focus on assisting the students with learning.

For more information about the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), please visit: <https://www.fau.edu/qep/>.

Center for Online and Continuing Education

How can COCE serve the faculty in the College of Science?

Since 2012, the Center for Online and Continuing Education (COCE) has provided professional development and online course building assistance for FAU faculty delivering fully-online courses. Over the past decade, services have expanded to include a variety of incentivized faculty workshops including: Teaching Online Orientation, Flexible Online Teaching Orientation, TA training for assisting faculty in online courses, Teaching Online Pedagogy, and weekly live micro-learning sessions on key topics.

FAU is a Quality Matters (QM) subscribing institution and, as such, COCE supports and incentivizes faculty in developing courses that align with [the state's quality rubric for online delivery of instruction](#). Faculty engage with COCE instructional designers for the creation of new online courses, preparing for QM certification, one-on-one appointments, and weekly open labs. In keeping with the Florida Board of Governors' guidance for online course delivery, COCE provides assistance and incentives for online course updates every 3 years. COCE also supports [faculty research and grant submissions](#) for the use of digital content for instructional delivery and has won numerous [national awards in collaboration with FAU Colleges](#).

Visit <https://www.fau.edu/elearning/> for more information about COCE.

What services does COCE offer?

1. **Instructional Design.** The Center for Online & Continuing Education provides a variety of Instructional Design Services including converting a face-to-face class to online instructional delivery, refreshing an existing online course, consulting with an Instructional Designer (ID) about online course questions, supporting online faculty in Open Lab, and providing online facilitator certifications.
2. **Instructional Media.** The Center for Online & Continuing Education provides assistance for faculty interested in adding rich multimedia content to their online courses.
3. **Propose a new fully online program.**
4. **Open Lab.** Opens Mondays and Fridays from 8am to 5pm, walk-in services or connect virtually.

5. **Faculty Innovation Hub.** Located on the [Davie](#) campus, the Faculty Innovation Hub will provide a space for faculty to explore the use of current and future technologies (AR, VR, 360° video, gamification, etc.) in a supported, judgement-free environment.

How does the e-Design process work?

COCE offers a stipend to faculty members designing the course for the first time. The e-Design process starts with a course proposal and then COCE will assign an Instructional Designer (ID) to work with the faculty member. The e-Design process usually starts one semester ahead of the scheduled classes.

After the Instructional Designer assists the faculty member to design or redesign the course, the course will go to the quality enhancement team, then to the quality enhancement manager, to either help get the course certified as a High Quality (HQ) course, or a Quality Matters (QM) course. HQ courses are mostly meeting the standards set by the State of Florida Board of Governors. QM courses are recognized nationally and internationally.

Does FAU still have the subscription of Honorlock?

Yes. As a matter of fact, FAU has expanded the subscription to include the full features offered by Honorlock. For example, the application is able to flag videos where suspicious activities and gestures are detected so that the instructor does not have to go through all the video recordings to identify these suspicious activities and gestures themselves. When such activities or gestures are detected the AI system would offer warnings to the students.

Does COCE offer video recording and editing services?

If the courses have distance learning components, COCE may be able to offer video recording and editing services through its open labs on Mondays and Fridays.

Where is COCE located?

COCE is located in IS208 and 209 (Building 4, Instructional Services 208 and 209) of the Boca campus, and LA203 (Liberal Arts 203) of the Davie campus.