



ACADEMIC CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE

Fall 2009
Volume 4, Issue 1

SUCCESS STORIES

ACE Academic Advising: One-on-One Support throughout the Semester

College students have a number of things to worry about—getting good grades, spending time with family and friends, planning for the future and a career, and in some cases, this is all while maintaining a regular job, participating in extracurricular activities, and keeping up with day-to-day responsibilities like chores and errands. For this reason, it is so crucial that students have a support system to assist them with academic concerns and guidance while navigating UIC. Academic advising at the Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) can help.

While ACE's academic advisors are prepared to consult with students on matters such as registering for classes and meeting specific graduation requirements, they move beyond these issues and talk individually with students on a host of topics

that can affect a student's potential success while in college.

Academic advisors at ACE assist students with improving time management, preparing for midterms and finals, changing majors, applying to graduate school, overcoming stress, selecting courses, writing personal statements, reducing test anxiety, setting academic goals, and many more important skills for students to learn.

Additionally, because ACE's academic advisors are staff members at the University, they have a wealth of knowledge about UIC's myriad resources and programs at their fingertips. If a student is unsure of where to find free tutoring, for example, an academic advisor at ACE can direct him or her to the appropriate tu-

toring services, such as the Writing Center or the Honors College, based on that student's needs. Or if a student wants to get more involved on campus, an academic advisor might talk with that student about volunteering through G.I.V.E. activities, joining a student organization, or how to become a resident assistant in the residence halls.

To schedule an appointment with one of ACE's academic advisors, drop by the Academic Center for Excellence between 8:30 am—5:00 pm, Monday through Friday. Or, call 312-413-0031 during business hours to speak with an advisor directly.

For more information about the Academic Center for Excellence, visit <http://www.uic.edu/depts/ace>.

Five Quick Study Tips on TIME MANAGEMENT

1. **Arrange your schedule carefully.** Choose classes that keep you on campus from 9 am to 5 pm. When you consider school a 9-5 job, and "trap" yourself on campus all day, there is a better likelihood that you will use the time wisely to study at the library.
2. **Do your toughest homework/reading first each day.** People are at their most alert early in the day, so use that to your advantage and complete your most challenging work when you have the most energy.
3. **Establish the habit of studying at specific times each day.** If you build routine study time into your weekly schedule, you are less likely to procrastinate because your study time is planned and deliberate.
4. **Break up big jobs into small, specific tasks.** Avoid putting things off until the last minute by breaking up large assignments into short, manageable ones.
5. **Create goals for every block of study time you set aside.** You are more likely to complete assignments or tasks ahead of time if you decide specifically *when* you are going to work on them.

Ask ACE: Chat Online with an Academic Skills Specialist!

ACE now offers the opportunity for students to chat live via Instant Message with an academic skills specialist. From your home, dorm, or the campus computer lab, you can get ideas and immediate feedback on how to better approach your course work. Got a question on how to best study for that exam in two days? Have a concern about managing your time? Need suggestions for taking better notes? Ask ACE!

To contact Ask ACE, visit the ACE web page at <http://www.uic.edu/depts/ace> and click on the Ask ACE: Live Question & Answer link.

Note: If the academic skills specialist is temporarily away or offline during business hours, contact ACE by phone at (312) 413-0031, or in person.

Or type a message and your email address into the IM box and ACE will get back to you within the next school day.



The UIC Experience: Engaging Students for Success, from Orientation through Graduation

For the second year in a row, the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs is promoting the UIC Experience, encouraging students to become fully engaged in all that the UIC campus and the city of Chicago have to offer. Three areas of student participation are targeted with this initiative: *Urban Exploration*, *Inquiring Minds*, and *Community*.

Active involvement in Urban Exploration includes engaging in activities such as volunteering for service opportunities in the city, registering to vote in a state or local election, or attending various cultural events around Chicago. The Inquiring Minds facet of the initiative is comprised of actions that develop intellectual inquiry including studying abroad, seeking academic advising, participating in an internship program or student research forums, or interacting with UIC faculty outside the classroom. By working on campus, attending UIC athletic events, serving as an officer for a student organization, attending campus events related to diversity or heritage celebrations, or similar activities, a student is involved in the Community aspect of UIC Experience.

Additionally, the UIC Experience initiative rewards students who are committed to enriching their college experience. Students who complete and document a total of six experiences (two Urban Exploration experiences, two Inquiring Minds experiences, and two Community experiences) will be awarded with a UIC Experience Certificate.

For more information on the UIC Experience, or to download a UIC Experience Documentation Form, visit, <http://www.uic.edu/depts/cas/uicexperience.html>.

Campus Academic/Professional Events

Youth Activism & Social Justice Leadership Discussion Panel
Tuesday, November 17
Jane Addams Hull House Dining Hall
5:00—7:00 pm

Career Preparation Seminar
Wednesday, November 18
Student Services Building, Room A
2:30—4:30 pm

Teach for America Information Session
Thursday, November 19
Student Center East, Room 613
5:00—6:00 pm

Lecture on Immigration by Enrique Morones, Founder & President of Border Angels
Friday, November 20
Lecture Center B, Latino Cultural Center
10:00—11:00 am

Dissertation Project Management: "ABD" Graduate Student Workshop Series

The Academic Center for Excellence is not just for undergraduate students! ACE's Dissertation Project Management Workshop Series is designed to support doctoral candidates move toward completing their dissertations. Throughout the workshop series, students review strategies for effective time management, creating weekly action plans, and managing the doctoral committee.

For more information, contact Myrna Garcia at mgarcia4@uic.edu.

Did you know...

...UIC is one of three universities in the Chicago area to rank among the top research institutions nationally?

...researchers at UIC are breaking new ground in robotic surgery and diabetes treatment?

ASP Courses—What Can They Do for You?

The Academic Center for Excellence's ASP courses are designed to guide to help students meet the reading, writing, study, and learning demands at UIC. These semester-long or half-semester classes are often compatible with other courses as the skills and methods learned in ASP classes can be applied across disciplines and coursework.

First-year students who are looking to improving their reading comprehension skills, for example, may find that the strategies discussed in ASP 090: Critical Reading and Thinking I can be applied to reading in other courses, such as psychology or philosophy. On the other hand, students who plan on taking graduate entrance exams like the GRE, may benefit from a vocabulary-building course like ASP 090: Vocabulary Enrichment.

For specific course descriptions, see the UIC Schedule of Classes, and for more information on registration for ASP courses, contact the Academic Center for Excellence.

ACADEMIC CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE

Student Services Bldg.
1200 W. Harrison St.
Suite 2900 (M/C 327)
Chicago, IL 60607-7164

Phone: (312) 413-0031
Fax: (312) 413-7897

<http://www.uic.edu/depts/ace>

See you soon!