

The Learning Commons



Annual Report 2021-2022

BGSU[®]

OUR MISSION



Provide students with academic services and programs that foster independent learning. The professional staff and highly trained student employees offer individual and group supports to meet the academic needs of BGSU students.

Our Staff

Travis Brown, Director

J. Clevenger, Assistant Director

Jeremy Joseph, Assistant Director

Teresa Mercer, Tutoring Coordinator

Ashley Gallagher, Sr. Learning Specialist

Lisa Maag, Learning Specialist

Penny Soboleski, Ed.D., Learning Specialist

ABOUT US

The Learning Commons draws upon the skills and expertise of staff, graduate students, and undergraduate students. We support the academic success of all Bowling Green State University students through academic coaching and success workshops, tutoring services, Supplemental Instruction (SI), and the Falcon Learning Your Way Program (FLY). We collaborate with other campus units to continuously improve services and programming to help students experience a successful academic journey. Through our College Reading & Learning Association (CRLA) International Tutor Training Program Certification and The International Center for Supplemental Instruction at the University of Missouri-Kansas City Accredited Program status, our professional staff invests in training student employees to ensure they provide exceptional peer-led academic supports. Our learning center work aligns with theory and best practices designed to help university students feel valued and motivated to learn.

We are part of Academic Affairs and the University Libraries. The Learning Commons is located on the first floor of the Jerome Library as a department dedicated to supporting students' academic success and well-being. This report is not intended to be a comprehensive analysis about services and programming in The Learning Commons but rather selectively focuses on how the services and programming are valuable for helping BGSU students experience academic success. Some data for this report can be extracted from Navigate, the institution's student success management system. This targeted look at our academic supports and data helps delineate how each service or program honors BGSU's student-driven mission.

The Learning Commons

2021-2022 HIGHLIGHTS

The onset of the pandemic in spring 2020 transitioned BGSU students to remote learning, and despite remote academic supports existing through The Learning Commons, a decline in the number of students seeking academic support occurred. This trend continued throughout the fall 2020 and spring 2021 semesters. The 2021-2022 academic year was punctuated by the reality of the COVID-19 global pandemic necessitating efforts by Learning Commons professional staff to reeducate BGSU students about services and programming designed to support student success. The following accomplishments demonstrate our professional commitment to operating a successful learning center:

- A 40% increase in student check-ins to the Learning Commons study lounge from the 2020-2021 academic year to the 2021-2022 academic year occurred.
- A 167% increase in student check-ins for tutoring sessions from the 2020-2021 academic year to the 2021-2022 academic year occurred.
- Continued participation the university early alert initiative that resulted in 43% of students issued an early alert using tutoring services for the fall 2021 semester and 30% of students issued an early alert using tutoring services for the spring 2022 semester.
- 21 peer-tutors became a College & Reading Learning Association (CRLA) Level 1 Certified Tutor.
- Special midterm and final exam preparation supports beyond typical Learning Commons services included MATH 1280 (Precalculus) and MATH 1310 (Calculus) review sessions and expanded Study on Sunday tutoring and academic coaching availability prior to exam week—students enjoyed snacks during the spring semester!
- The Falcon Learning Your Way Program (FLY) maintained steady program participation numbers (65 students) throughout the academic year and saw an increase in applicants; resulting is an anticipated fall 2022 student participation total of over 100 students.



OUR SERVICES

Academic Coaching & Success Workshops

Success Coaching provided students individualized support to share strategies for studying and managing time to achieve their academic goals. Academic Coaching mostly occurs in the Learning Commons study lounge.

- 1,055 appointments held
- 149 students utilized coaching services; 89% of these students attended multiple appointments
- Over 9,400 documented check-ins by students to use the study lounge
- Over 17,000 hours of documented study time
- An average daily head count of 228 individuals used the study lounge during the Fall '21 semester and 149 students during the Spring '22 semester

Our workshops are tailored to meet the needs of campus partners. We share strategies for academic success with students who are part of the BGSU community.

- 9 total workshops
- 177 students attended
- 19.67 students on average attended the workshops

Workshops include:

- AIMS Summer Bridge – motivation, mindset, and goal setting
- College Credit Plus – College success skills
- AS 1020 – Using the library and Learning Commons
- Academic Coaching Productivity Power Hour – students signed up to attend

Supplemental Instruction

Students attended weekly sessions to improve their understanding of course material, develop productive study habits, and review class notes for historically challenging classes at BGSU.

Number of courses supported: 8 during both semesters

- 21% of the students in a course supported by SI attended a session; 601 total students supported
- Most students who attended SI sessions earned nearly half a letter grade higher than students who did not
- Students attended 2,934 hours of SI support

OUR SERVICES

Tutoring Services

Our services comprise course-based tutoring, math & stats tutoring, and writing consultations. Tutoring mostly occurs in the Learning Commons study lounge. We offer in-person and virtual appointments. Students regularly use the study lounge when not receiving tutoring help as a place to work independently or to collaborate with fellow BGSU students.

By the Numbers

- Tutors held over 6,000 sessions
- 38.65% of students were repeat users of tutoring services (Fall '21 and Spring '22 semester average)
- 934 Online Writing Submissions reviewed by writing consultants
- The majority of students sought tutoring help for math & stats (47.6%), followed by course-based support (33.6%), and then writing (18.6%)
- The top course-based check-ins and appointments occurred for Chemistry (18%), Biology (16%), Economics (8.5%), Accounting (6.60%), and Physics (3.60%)
- 91% of students thought their tutor was overall effective in enhancing their learning

The FLY Program

Falcon Learning Your Way Program (FLY) believes that every student has the potential to be successful in college. This includes students who have learning differences, such as AD/HD, or students who would benefit from help with time management and learning strategies. FLY can give students the wings they need to navigate the transition from high school to college, all with the support of a learning specialist equipped to work with students from all learning backgrounds.

By the Numbers

- Learning Specialists supported 65 students
- Held 1,686 appointments and 1,406 hours of one-on-one support
- FLY students had 1074 tutoring appointments

SUPPORT OUR MISSION

Fund Designations

1965 Learning Commons Support Fund - As part of their 50th class reunion, members of the BGSU Class of 1965 renamed the Learning Commons Fund and participated in significant fundraising efforts to endow the fund. The Learning Commons provides full-service academic and tutoring support services.

Falcon Learning Your Way Program (FLY) - The Falcon Learning Your Way Program assists students with specific learning disabilities (SLD) and/or Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) by providing individualized support. The FLY Program provides the cognitive and emotional support students may need to accommodate learning differences. Students work with their assigned learning specialist to develop and implement individualized academic support plans, including the assessment and evaluation of their individual skills and learning needs. The FLY Program scholarship is a \$1,000 award to assist students with fees associated with the program.

