



Academic Success Center Newsletter

AD Campus

Nov 2019



Welcome to the Academic Success Center. We are here to help you learn.

The Academic Success Center is committed to promoting the academic potential of ADU students. It is a one-stop solution for students to clear their worries regarding their academic life. There are faculty, academic tutors, course assistants, and peer tutors to help students with all their concerns and questions. They help them become independent learners by ensuring they are on the right path.

Let's hear from our faculty, staff, and students



Dr. Sreethi Nair
Dean

The Academic Success Center (ASC) is equipped with world-class facilities that complement the excellence of the University's academic endeavors. In line with ADU's Students First Approach, the ASC was created with students' learning and study needs in mind. From the spatial design to the use of technology and resources, everything has been developed with the explicit purpose of enhancing learning and driving academic excellence. We plan to utilize the space hosting events, workshops, and mentoring sessions, focusing on developing soft skills not taught in the classroom.



Ms. Beena Vijayan
Coordinator

Did you know that over %25 of students who enter university do not complete their degree? What makes some students succeed in achieving their degree, while others face challenges? Some of the leading indicators of student success are student academic success and engagement in their educational journey in both co-curricular and extra-curricular activities. Retention and student engagement play an integral part in academic success in all universities.

Student retention is closely tied to student learning and involvement - these factors contribute to the institution's performance. At Abu Dhabi University, we pride ourselves on providing students with not only quality education but also opportunities for students to become engaged in the overall campus community. Part of this critical process is the ASC that provides opportunities to enhance the education outcome of all students.

The ASC uses various learning models and support systems as catalysts for academic success. These include peer tutorials, workshops, and competitions that aim to empower all ADU students. So the next time you think about your life as a student at ADU, also keep in mind that university life is more than the academic side of your journey - it is a holistic experience to propel you into a rewarding future as a global citizen.

Student Council Members

Senior members from the Student Council expressed their excitement for the ASC, highlighting that it will provide students with a centralized resource to develop life-long skills as well as improve their academic performance and overall student experience.



ASC services are free for all ADU students



WALK-IN TUTORING



ONE-ON-ONE TUTORING



GROUP TUTORING



ACADEMIC COACHING



COLLABORATIVE LEARNING SPACE



WORKSHOPS

ASC Fall 2019 statistics

4 ACADEMIC TUTORS

202 WORKSHOP ATTENDEES

49 PEER TUTORS

1162 MALE TUTEES WHO VISITED THE CENTRE
1514 FEMALE

19 COURSE ASSISTANTS

40 SCIENCE CHALLENGE

Thank you to all the tutors who worked hard and took the time and energy to explain concepts to students. We look forward to your continued support.

The ASC thanks faculty for conducting workshops for students.

Purpose of Tutoring

The purpose of tutoring is not simply to provide the correct answers or solve exercises but to help students become independent learners by guiding and assisting them through challenging problems in an environment free from class ridicule. Students feel free and comfortable approaching and learning from their peers as the power dynamic is less pronounced between the two. Additionally, both the tutor and the tutee gain a much better understanding of the different concepts while working together through assignments, projects, and exercises related to the topic.

Tutoring requires discussing and rationalizing lesson concepts in your own words. This helps to develop social listening skills and the ability to ask relevant questions - essential characteristics when communicating with people from different backgrounds later on in your personal and professional life. Typically, peer tutors help other students on a one-to-one basis or in small groups through the continuation of classroom discussions, developing study skills, evaluating work, resolving specific problems, and encouraging independent learning.

Where to find the Peer Tutors

A list of all the peer tutors with their e-mail addresses can be requested from the ASC.

You can book an appointment with a peer tutor or faculty member through ADU Groups or e-mail your preferred tutors and request a session with them.

NOTE: We operate an open-door policy, so if you have any scheduling difficulties, personality conflicts or other concerns with your tutor, please email asc@adu.ac.ae



Important Tutorials to Meet Your Needs

Click on the link: <https://youtu.be/wt52GjuVi1c>

- To book appointments with tutors.
- To register for workshops, events, and competitions.
- To access ASC repository that provides different kinds of study materials.

Class Visits

Academic Tutors, Course Assistants, and Peer Tutors visited classes twice during the semester to inform students about the quality support services, resources, and programs available to aid them in their studies.

Excel Sheets

Excel sheets with names of all the students who needed help were created towards offering them guidance and tracking their progress. This was done to ensure that the students were being helped, and they received it in the right way. This was a successful effort that saw good results. Efforts to fine tune the strategy will continue for the benefit of the students.

We hosted the following workshops in Fall 2019

- Stress management
- Types of sentences and sentence combination
- Rounding and estimation with real-life applications
- Techniques to use MS Excel
- How to create a simple video using Windows Movie Maker
- Paraphrasing techniques
- Review of literature in research
- How to cite in Arabic
- Mutually and non-mutually exclusive events
- Volume of shaded region
- Graphing system of linear inequalities in two variables
- Graphing linear inequality in two variables
- Trigonometric ratios
- Graphing rational functions with the help of 1st and 2nd derivatives
- Graphing linear inequality in two variables

Brain Teasers

We placed some simple and fun brain teasers at the Academic Success Center to increase student engagement. All correct answers were put in a box for a final draw.



Winners

Male

- Hasan Mohammad Ousama Sheikh Sobeh
- Hamza Ben Ahmadi
- Ghazi Jmail



Female

- Rania Kadya
- Aamila Ansari

Faculty and students dropped by to join the fun.

Math and Science Challenge

The Academic Success Center hosted a Math and Science Challenge for all students across the University. This was a wonderful way to get students engaged in an activity that was not course work in a relaxed environment. Thank you to Mr. Muhammad Farooq and his team for the competition idea.



Winners:

Male:

- 1st Homam Mahmoud
- 2nd Omer Alsaid & Majed Al Shamsi

Female:

- 1st Israa Mohammed
- 2nd Areeba Imran & Aqsa Gul
- 3rd Zamzam Moustafa & Haya Zuaiter

Professional Development for Tutors

Workshop by Dr. Cheantel Adams



ASC organized a wonderful interactive training session that gave our Academic Tutors, Course Assistants, and Peer Tutors an insight into the best practices, student learning theory, and addressing student-learning needs from multiple pedagogical perspectives while tutoring.

The whole session was friendly and covered a broad range of tips/advice on effective tutoring.

We appreciate Dr. Cheantel Adams, Assistant Professor of Education, Department of Education, for delivering the training and supporting in strengthening the tutoring program at the Academic Success Center.



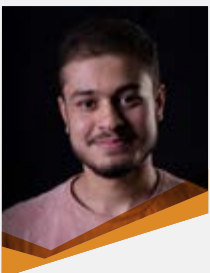
Reflections by Workshop Attendees

The ASC has helped me to help others who are in need no matter who they are. It also helped me develop excellent communication skills. The training was very insightful and helped me understand why I chose to work as a Course Assistant in the ASC. I am thankful for having had the opportunity to attend.



Mustafa Ali Abdullah Al-Sakkaf - Course Assistant

Being a Course Assistant has helped me a lot when it comes to learning as an individual. I got to experience how it feels to teach others and also learned quite a lot of things myself. Training has given me valuable tips to improve my relationship with my tutees further and provide quality tutoring. All in all, it was a valuable opportunity to have, and I am already looking forward to what comes next.



Ebrahim Alost - Course Assistant

Great workshop! Useful information delivered perfectly. The workshop gave me a good idea about what I have to do and how I should deal with my tutees effectively. I would highly recommend such workshops to anyone interested in becoming a course assistant or a peer tutor.



Yazan Barbar – Peer Tutor

I learned about the best ways to communicate effectively with my tutees and to help and teach them to their benefit by not doing their work but teaching them how to do it. It was a hands-on, thought-provoking workshop that left me inspired, more confident, and with many actionable take-aways I can apply immediately.



Nimra Sami – Course Assistant

I really enjoyed the training because Dr. Cheantal gave us clear, precise advice on how to be a better tutor, how to deliver productive peer tutor sessions and help students learn effectively.



Jubaydah Nasrin - Peer Tutor

I learned what I was already doing well, as well as the areas I could improve as a peer tutor. The methods that Dr. Cheantal taught us will help us improve the way we teach others at the Academic Success Center.

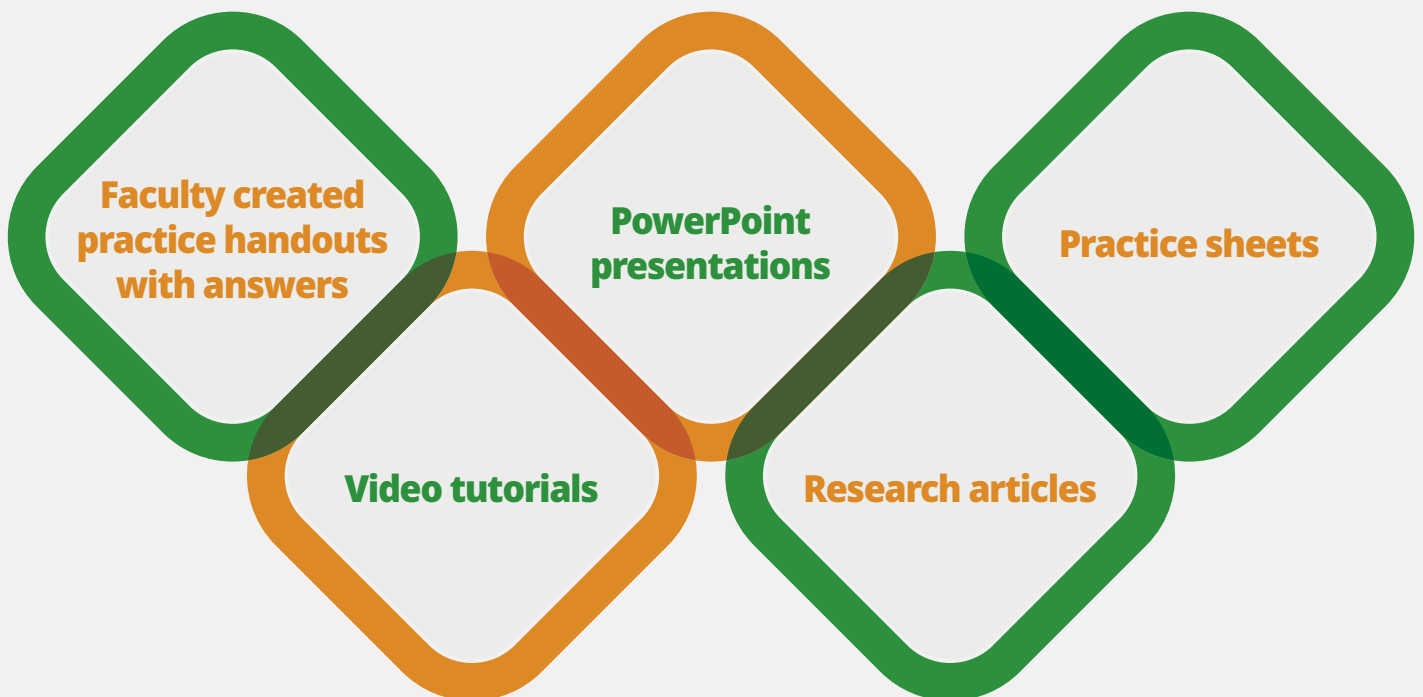


Amal Al Ansari - Peer Tutor

I found the session to be extremely useful. Dr. Cheantal's approach to teaching and tutoring was interesting. She gave an insightful presentation, and I will definitely apply all the tips and tricks I learnt from the session.

Digital Repository

Most Common Materials Stored in the Repository



Reflections on Tutoring Experience

What Our Course Assistants Say

Hamda Fasla

I have been working as a course assistant for a year, and the experience has been amazing. The ASC environment is vibrant and energetic. It was a learning experience as much for me as it was for the students who came to me for help. The Academic Tutors at the Center are incredibly supportive. The students find the tutoring program so effective that they come back time after time.

Mohamed Omer Mohamed Faizal

The Academic Success Center is Abu Dhabi University's latest initiative providing a comfortable space for students to escape from their hectic everyday schedules. Students can relax, use the study rooms to learn in groups or one-on-one, and ask questions without the fear of embarrassment. The Center is open to all students, tutors, and course assistants available to assist students academically and otherwise. There are computers that students can use to conduct research or participate in computer-based learning activities. This is such an effective initiative for students that I hope more will make use of this excellent facility.

What Our Peer Tutors Tell Us

Majed M. Alashqar, Mechanical Engineering

I have served as a peer tutor for two years and tutoring at the ASC has been an excellent experience for me because it is fulfilling to help someone in need. We are all students, after all, and we all know what it is like to struggle with a course. ASC provides students with that little push needed in their courses to get that perfect grade. Tutoring also helped me become less introverted and more sociable.

Abeer Mohsen

I like helping my friends to understand what they don't in class. Helping others makes me happy, and I feel I understand more when I help others. I'm thankful to the Academic Success Center for giving me a chance to serve as a peer tutor and polish my personality.

Mariam Mohammad Abbas, Accounting

I enjoyed teaching students at the Academic Success Center – it also helped me feel I belonged at Abu Dhabi University. My work at the Center has also helped me better utilize my time at university. The sense of satisfaction I would feel when the students visited me after their midterms and quizzes, telling me about their remarkable performance, was pure joy.

Reflections on Tutoring Experience

What Our Peer Tutors Tell Us

Marcellin Premila Jerome, Chemical engineering

Being a mentor in the ASC has been a unique experience. The place itself offers various kinds of learning opportunities depending on the student's needs. The sense of helping a student to feel comfortable and being able to make her understand her issues enlightened me. The time I spent at the ASC also helped me to make new friends and broaden my teaching skills.

Lastly, it has enabled me to keep in touch with my previous courses and achieve a deeper understanding of the subjects. I would advise any student to go to the ASC regardless of the topic you find difficult - there is always a person waiting there to help you. Even if you want to study on your own, the ASC will provide you with the best environment to study.

Ghadeer Ismail, Architecture

Tutoring at the Academic Success Center has taught me to be more patient while teaching others and understand effective learning strategies such as structuring the material and seeking out key pieces of information. I studied some materials intending to teach others, and this involved the use of additional techniques that lead to a more comprehensive understanding for me to pass on.

ASC increased my feeling of responsibility and motivated me to learn more myself. It improved my communication skills, leadership ability, and increased my confidence.

What Our Tutees Say

Sarah Abdel Sater

The ASC is a great place to study. Academic Tutors, Course Assistants, and Peer Tutors are always available to help with whatever is needed. The flexible timings are well suited for students.

Budoor Saleh

If you want a comfortable place to study, then the ASC is your best choice. It is a great place with efficient and helpful Academic Tutors, Peer Tutors, and Course Assistants. I love going to the ASC.

Why we love ASC

Samir Mohamad Bachar Saidi

As someone who has tutored at the Learning Support Center and the Writing Center since I first joined ADU, I am very excited to see the potential of the Academic Success Center after upgrading to a state-of-the-art facility and improving the services to better facilitate students' academic development. Alongside the normal peer tutoring service, we are holding workshops in tandem with a repository that has resources for all General Education Courses. The repository includes further explanation for topics covered in a course, and worksheets to practice on. I hope that, in the ASC, students find not only a suitable place to learn but also a pleasant environment to spend time in whenever they like.

To finish off, I wish to extend my thanks to all our tutors and faculty, whose unwavering efforts have tremendously helped the ASC in every possible way. This could not have been possible without them.

Zahra Tahreem Siddiqui

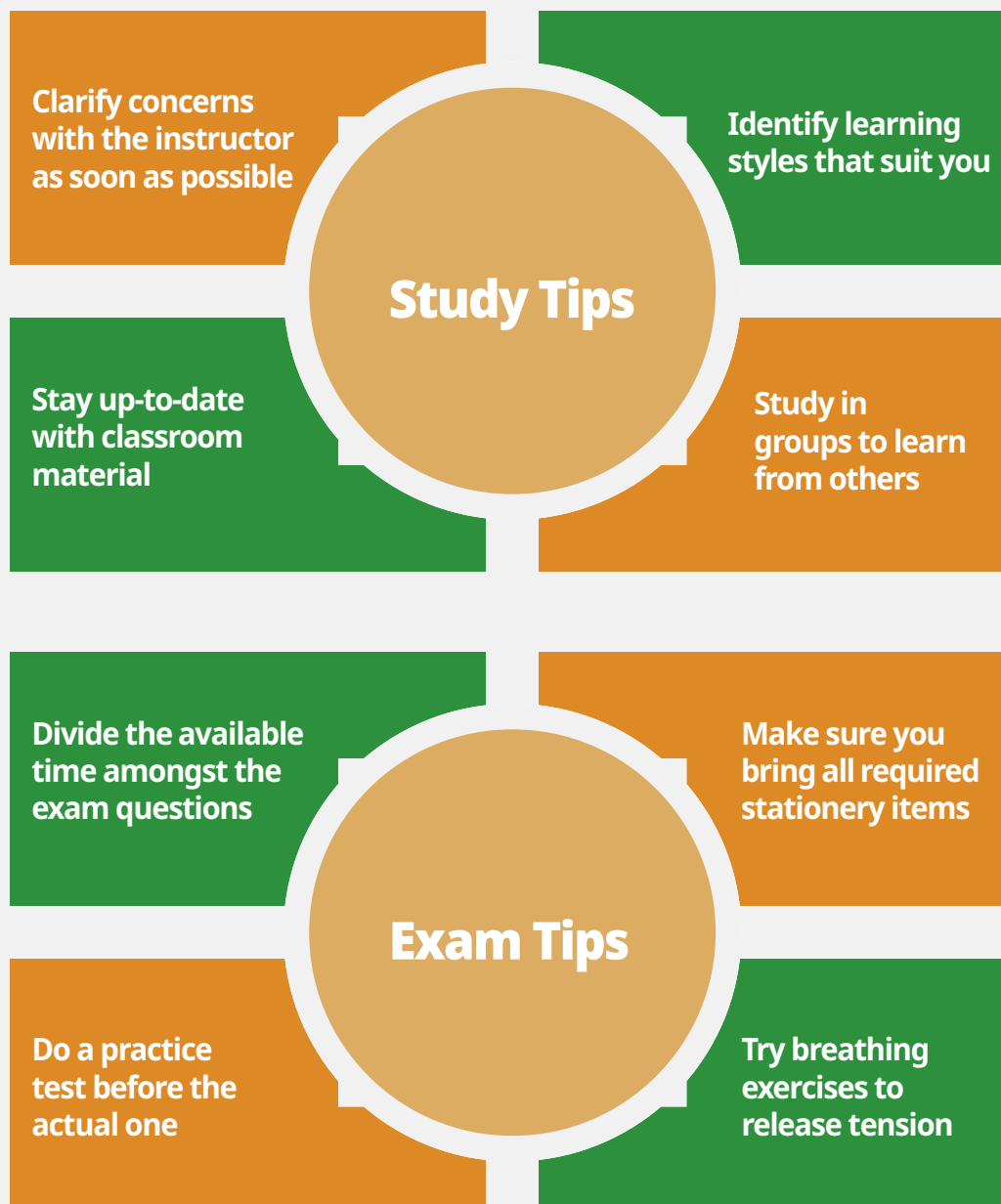
With the opening of the new center, there are great hopes for further improvement of the range of services the ASC will offer. Being a part of the center for almost three years has provided me with the opportunity to closely observe its progress and its role in ADU students' academic journey.

In the rush of assignments, quizzes, projects, and club activities, we hope to provide some clarity by helping to ease the burden. When in doubt regarding your courses, you can seek assistance from student tutors and faculty members available at the ASC or attend workshops held to reinforce classroom material.

ASC is bound to grow in the coming years, mainly by increasing the number and variety of tutors available as well as by improving accessibility to the center's resources.

Important Tips to Improve Your University Experience

By: Zahra Tahreem Siddiqui



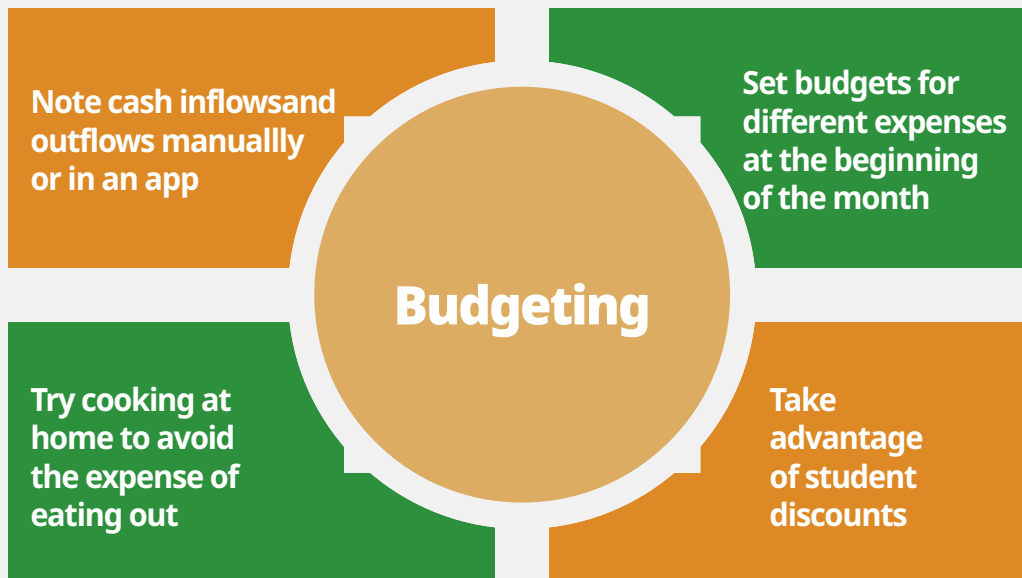
Important Tips to Improve Your University Experience

By: Zahra Tahreem Siddiqui



Important Tips to Improve Your University Experience

By: Zahra Tahreem Siddiqui



Call for Course Assistants and Peer Tutors

Course Assistant Application Form for Winter 2019-20: <http://e.cglink.me/s300001539>

Peer Tutor Application Form for Winter 2019-20: <http://e.cglink.me/s300001538>

Academic Success Center is committed to promoting the academic potential of ADU students, and we require you to be part of this commitment.

Hours of Operation

The ASC is open from:

9 am - 8 pm - Sunday to Wednesday

9 am - 6 pm - Thursdays

Location

First floor adjacent to the Library

ASC is committed to helping all ADU students achieve academic excellence. You can reach us at asc@adu.ac.ae for all queries and concerns.

“**YOUR FUTURE** IS CREATED
BY WHAT **YOU DO TODAY,**
NOT TOMORROW.”

Robert Kiyosaki