SCHOOL OF ACADEMIC ADVANCEMENT

From enrollment to graduation, the faculty and staff of the School of Academic Advancement are committed to preparing students for college coursework and experiences. Together, we strive to connect students with people, courses, services, resources and opportunities that can help them meet their goals.

Course Instruction

College Skills Success Courses (https://catalog.gvltec.edu/school-academic-advancement/academic-connections-department/)

Whether a student has recently completed high school or returned to college after years of work or family life, college can seem overwhelming. COL 105 Freshman Seminar, required for most associate degree programs, is designed to prepare students for the college classroom and beyond. With guidance from our faculty, students improve study, note-taking and test-taking skills, identify their learning style, build time management skills, explore career options and learn about campus services and resources that will keep them on track.

Transitional Studies Courses (https://catalog.gvltec.edu/school-academic-advancement/transitional-studies-department/)

Transitional Studies faculty members teach courses that prepare students to take college-level instruction. If college placement test scores indicate students need help in English, reading or math, our instructors help students refresh and upgrade skills that provide the foundation for success in their chosen majors.

English as a Second Language (ESL) Courses

ESL courses strengthen the knowledge and use of the English language for non-native speakers. Courses are offered in listening and speaking; reading; writing composition; and grammar and punctuation. Classes are taught using a combination of teaching techniques, including lectures, group assignments and computer-assisted programs. Students who are non-native speakers of English and who wish to pursue a college degree are strongly encouraged to enroll in ESL classes.

Acceleration Opportunities

Test for Success Workshops

The Test for Success program is designed to prepare students for the College's placement test and helps them navigate Transitional Studies course choices if they do not meet their program entrance requirements based on test scores. Students are encouraged to take Test for Success workshops in math, reading and English to brush up on skills before retaking the placement test.

Accelerate Math

The Accelerate Math program is offered to students who have placed into Transitional Studies Math (MAT 100 Introductory College Math (Non-Degree Credit) and MAT 105 Introduction to College Algebra). The program is a flexible, affordable and low-stress way for students to practice their skills and build their confidence in preparation for math courses. In many cases, Accelerate Math participants are able to advance to a higher level of math than their initial placement—saving time and money.

For a $35 fee, students receive six weeks of access to web-based, self-paced math software. The software is designed to help students identify math strengths and weaknesses and develop an improvement plan. To help students navigate the software and math concepts, math faculty are available in the computer lab located in the Math Center on the third floor of the University Transfer Building (Bldg. 104) on the Barton Campus.

Accelerated Course Formats

To help students progress through courses as quickly as possible while also providing a solid foundation, the Transitional Studies department schedules a variety of accelerated course options each semester. Students should consult their advisors to identify the best opportunities for acceleration. Acceleration course formats include:

Emporium Math

By completing one five-credit course, students could potentially satisfy requirements for one or both Transitional Studies math courses. Students begin the course by taking a diagnostic test and working with their instructors to create a course learning plan. The emporium option is recommended for motivated self-learners who are computer literate, strong readers and close to the cut-off score for placing into a higher-level course.

Fast Track English and reading courses

The Fast Track course option offers lecture-style classes compressed into seven weeks.

English+ (English Plus) accelerated learning courses

English+ courses are opportunities for students who score at the high end of ENG 100 Introduction to Composition (Non-Degree Credit) placement to earn credit for both ENG 101 English Composition I* and RWR 100 Integrated Transitional Reading and English (Non-Degree Credit) in the same semester.

- Qualified students register for two three-credit courses—a traditional ENG 101 English Composition I* with a supplementary RWR 100 Integrated Transitional Reading and English (Non-Degree Credit) course that includes fewer students and more individualized instruction.
- The RWR 100 Integrated Transitional Reading and English (Non-Degree Credit) course meets immediately after the ENG 101 English Composition I* course, and the same instructor teaches both courses.
- A typical RWR 100 Integrated Transitional Reading and English (Non-Degree Credit) class meeting will include discussion and review of the material presented in ENG 101 English Composition I*; intensive work on grammar, editing, developing ideas, organization and documentation; and strategies to improve critical reading skills.

Students who successfully complete all learning outcomes for RWR 100 Integrated Transitional Reading and English (Non-Degree Credit) and ENG 101 English Composition I* earn credit for both classes.

Students who are successful in RWR 100 Integrated Transitional Reading and English (Non-Degree Credit) but do not pass ENG 101 English Composition I* will earn credit for RWR 100 Integrated Transitional Reading and English (Non-Degree Credit) only, but they will have the opportunity to re-take ENG 101 English Composition I* as a stand-alone course the next semester.
Students who do not pass RWR 100 Integrated Transitional Reading and English (Non-Degree Credit) or ENG 101 English Composition I* will be required to enroll in a regular section of RWR 100 Integrated Transitional Reading and English (Non-Degree Credit) in a subsequent semester.

**Academic Support Services**

The faculty and staff of the School of Academic Advancement recognize that the time that students spend outside of class can impact learning and academic performance. That is why we plan services and extracurricular activities to provide additional support.

**Early Advising Center**

After completing placement testing, students who place into transitional course(s) are referred to the Early Advising Center where they are advised on transitional course work and acceleration options that may allow them to enter their curriculum courses sooner. As part of the Test for Success Express program offered in the Early Advising Center, students may also work with Transitional Studies instructors to review math, English and reading concepts before attempting to retake the placement test.

**Caring Corner**

The Caring Corner is an emergency food pantry dedicated to helping students who are in need. The Caring Corner provides food, hygiene items and diapers, as well as vouchers that can be used by students who need clothing and household items. These vouchers can be used to purchase items at a thrift store through a community partnership.

**Financial Education Center**

The vision of the Financial Education Center is to empower students and employees to attain their academic, career and life goals. Scheduled and walk-in appointments are available to assist students and employees with creating a budget, managing credit and debt, and securing financial identity. Representatives are also available to conduct classroom presentations and workshops.

**Find Your E (First Year Experience)**

Through the First Year Experience (FYE) program, our faculty and staff members host engaging activities to help students successfully transition into college by connecting them with resources and services. FYE events include Get the Scoop! and Warm Up to GTC information fairs, Welcome Tents, Hey Day!, an Academic Majors Fair, as well as a variety of Lunch and Learn programs.

**Peer Leaders**

Peer Leaders are current students who serve as role models and leaders in COL 103 College Skills and COL 105 Freshman Seminar. Peer Leaders assist first-year students with the transition into college life by connecting students to the college community.

**Academic Coaching**

It has been said that our academic coaches teach students how to “do college.” Students work with coaches to build study and technology skills, improve time management skills, make connections for success and more. In addition to offering appointments and workshops, our coaches frequently reach out to students who have been referred to them for extra help with grades, attendance or technology skills.

**Tutoring**

When students need to better understand concepts, complete assignments or review for tests, tutors are ready to help. On every campus, our tutors invite students to register for workshops or schedule one-on-one appointments in many subject areas. Students enrolled in curriculum and Transitional Studies courses may receive tutoring assistance from the Math Center, Writing Center and/or Subject Tutoring areas. For online or after-hours support, students can also access 24/7 tutoring assistance by clicking on Brainfuse™ links posted in all Blackboard courses.

**Libraries and Computer Labs**

Staff members in our campus libraries and computer labs ensure that students can access a wide range of information resources and software that support college courses and programs. Services and programs are designed to connect students to the right resources and teach them how to use information and technology effectively.

**Academic Testing Center**

Located on the Barton Campus, the Academic Testing Center provides professional test proctoring services in a well-equipped testing environment where students may complete tests, exams, comprehensive examinations and national examinations.

**PATH Transfer Center**

The Planning and Transfer Headquarters (PATH) is an essential resource for students planning to continue their education at a four-year college or university. The PATH staff assists students in preparing a smooth transition to other institutions by providing them information, resources and academic planning services. PATH also hosts Transfer Days and other events to provide students with opportunities to meet representatives from four-year colleges and universities on campus to learn more about the senior institutions and their transfer options.

**Creative Inquiry**

The Creative Inquiry program is supported by the School of Academic Advancement. For more details about Creative Inquiry courses, please see the “Other Educational Opportunities (https://catalog.gvltec.edu/student-handbook/educational-opportunities/)” section.

**Global Education**

Greenville Tech’s Global Education program is supported by the School of Academic Advancement. For more information about the opportunities associated with this program, please see the “Other Educational Opportunities (https://catalog.gvltec.edu/student-handbook/educational-opportunities/)” section of the Student Handbook and Catalog.

Visit our web page at https://www.gvltec.edu/academic-advancement-support/.