

# Academic Support Programs and Services

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## Academic Resource Center

The Academic Resource Center (ARC) provides services and programs that enhance students' learning skills, strategies, and attitudes. Classes such as USU 1010, PSY 1730, PSY 1750, and SPED 0100 actively orient students to campus and involve them in gaining college-level academic skills. "Drop-in" math and statistics tutoring, as well as Supplemental Instruction (SI) program, provide additional academic support. Individual consultations assist students with gaining course-specific learning strategies. The National Student Exchange promotes studying for one or two semesters at other U.S. colleges for cultural and academic diversity.

## Courses

**USU 1010, University Connections (1-3 credits)**, introduces students to the expectations and challenges of university life, as well as to the academic, geographic, social/communal, and procedural maps of the University. Connections also focuses on some of the learning strategies students will need to successfully achieve their goals at the University. The course explores issues which students commonly encounter during their transition from high school to university life, in an atmosphere encouraging the development of enduring connections with University faculty, staff, and students. The curriculum requires students to participate in a common literature experience. Before the semester begins, students receive information about the literature experience.

To meet their individual needs, students may choose from two course format options. They may take the course Wednesday through Saturday before the semester begins, or enroll during the first eight weeks of the semester.

**PSY 1730, Strategies for Academic Success (1-3 credits)**, involves application of important learning strategies. Topics include test preparation, note-taking, textbook reading, test-taking, etc.

**PSY 1750, Comprehension Strategies for College Reading (1 credit)**, is designed for students who want to improve their college reading skills in the areas of comprehension, vocabulary, and retention of information. Students practice the reading strategies using textbooks from their other classes.

**MHR 2160, Student Applied Leadership Training (1-3 credits)**, is designed to develop the skills of students working as tutors. This class meets the standards of the National Tutoring Certification Program.

**SPED 0100, Strategies for Reading (1-3 credits)**, is a practical course with an emphasis on improvement of reading, writing, and comprehension skills that are essential for academic success. This is a remedial class not carrying USU or transfer credit.

## Individual Assistance

Staff members provide individual consultation for students needing help with specific learning needs in one or more of their courses.

## Workshops

Workshops are offered on a variety of learning topics for student groups and classes. To arrange for a workshop, call (435) 797-1128.

## Supplemental Instruction

A program of Supplemental Instruction (SI) for General Education courses is sponsored by the center. A student who has successfully completed a General Education course is hired by the center to attend all class sessions and conduct review sessions. This student models effective study strategies for academic achievement in that class. SI classes and schedules are published each semester on the web: <http://www.usu.edu/arc>

## Tutoring Programs

### Drop-In Math and Statistics Tutoring

Free tutoring is provided by trained tutors at the center and other campus sites. Schedules can be picked up in Student Center 305 each semester or can be found on the Web-based Tutor Directory.

### Tutor Advertiser

Students can hire a qualified tutor through the web-based *Tutor Advertiser*. These tutors are screened by the center and must be paid by the student receiving the tutoring.

### Tutor Directory

The center publishes a directory of all on-campus free tutoring. The directory is available in Student Center 305 and through the center's web page: <http://www.usu.edu/arc>

## Idea Sheets

Free Idea Sheets on a variety of learning strategies are available in the center and through the center's web page: <http://www.usu.edu/arc>

## National Student Exchange

National Student Exchange (NSE), a group of more than 180 colleges and universities in the United States, is designed to: (1) provide students with options for educational travel and study at minimal cost, (2) provide educational opportunities in academic studies not available at USU, and (3) create an appreciation of diverse ideas and value systems.

Students normally participate in NSE during their sophomore or junior year. For further information, contact the Academic Resource Center, Student Center 305, (435) 797-1132.

## Video Viewing Library

The center has a collection of videos, which students may view in the center, relating to effective learning strategies.

## Referral Resources

The center provides students with referral information for a variety of on-campus and off-campus services and agencies.

For more information, contact the Academic Resource Center, Student Center 305, (435) 797-1128.

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## Cooperative Education Internship Program

The Cooperative Education Internship Program offers both undergraduate and graduate students a unique opportunity to integrate career, social, and personal development into the educational process. The program is designed to allow students to alternate classroom study with a series of paid preprofessional work experiences related to their field of study. These experiences increase in complexity as the student's background in a given field increases.

The program offers several specific benefits to students. It provides those students who have decided on an academic major an opportunity to obtain pregraduation work experience in their chosen career. The program provides those students who are unsure of their academic major an opportunity to explore several career possibilities. It provides them a chance to earn money for their education and credit toward their degree. Finally, it substantially improves the students' opportunities for employment after graduation.

The Cooperative Education Internship Program option is available in all departments on the Utah State University campus. Generally speaking, students begin their work experiences in their sophomore or junior year, although seniors can take advantage of program benefits. Students can undertake either part- or full-time work experiences. Work experiences are available both during the academic year and during the summer. These work experiences may be with a single employer or with different employers; increasing complexity is the critical principle. Salaries vary with the field of work and the complexity of the job.

The amount of academic credit awarded for a given work experience varies, and depends upon the amount of work completed and upon the career-related nature of the experience. The decision regarding credit and the amount to be granted rests with the academic department, and specifically the faculty co-op coordinators. Students must make the credit arrangement with their faculty co-op coordinators prior to their work experience.

Students interested in entering or learning more about the program should contact their academic department; or visit Career Services, located in University Inn 102, ground level, tel. (435) 797-7777. Additional information can also be found online at: <http://www.usu.edu/career/coopinfo.html>

## Cultural Exchange Program

More than 1,100 students and scholars from 83 countries are currently enrolled at Utah State University. Many of these students are in great demand by the community to visit various school, church, and civic functions. Students often bring from their countries videos, slides, photographs, artifacts, maps, music, and costumes which they share with the community. Other students are requested by various organizations to display their talents in song, dance, cooking, fashion shows, martial arts, and many other crafts and skills.

These outreach programs benefit the community, enhance the University, and also provide excellent opportunities for USU international students to learn how the community operates. It also gives internationals the occasion to develop friendships with Americans. The sometimes long-lasting and far-reaching friendships are valuable to developing peace and friendship across the globe. Also, these students further develop their talents and skills in communication and become familiar and comfortable with the American culture.

Those needing help in arranging programs with international students may call the Office of International Students and Scholars at (435) 797-1124.

## Disability Resource Center

The mission of the Disability Resource Center is to provide supportive services to qualified individuals with disabilities, so they may participate equally in academic, employment, social, and cultural opportunities available at Utah State University.

Services offered by the Disability Resource Center include:

1. Campus orientation, architectural access, and modification.
2. Registration assistance, including interpreters, advisors, and escorts.
3. Equipment loan and Assistive Technology Laboratory, including FM amplification systems, tape recorders, aids for students with vision impairments, and adapted computer hardware and software.
4. Referral information regarding campus and community services, including a referral registry for nonacademic interpreters, readers, personal care attendants, and escorts.
5. Alternate-format textbooks and class materials for qualifying students.
6. Counseling for academic and personal needs.
7. Support service coordination with the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.

The Disability Resource Center is located in University Inn 101 and can be reached by telephone by calling (435) 797-2444 or (800) 259-2966 (voice) or (435) 797-0740 (TTY).

## General Studies Program

General Studies is the administrative-academic unit maintained at USU for the enrollment of students who do not meet the admissions requirements of the seven academic colleges. By state policy, admission of students to this category is limited. Students enrolled in the General Studies Program are assessed a fee of \$45 per semester.

The primary function of the program is to assist and encourage students in the improvement of their academic status, so they may transfer to the major of their choice. To accomplish this purpose, participants are urged to limit their course loads each semester, satisfy remedial requirements when indicated, and meet frequently with an advisor. Students in General Studies are encouraged to take General Education and exploratory classes. Resources in the Academic Resource Center, the University Counseling Center, the Testing Center, and Career Services are available to assist such students with career, aptitude, life skills, and study skills counseling.

The Low Scholarship and Probation Policies of the University apply to students enrolled in General Studies. When a student has satisfied remedial course requirements and has demonstrated ability to maintain a 2.0 GPA, that student may apply for admission to an academic college and department or to the Undeclared Program. Regular college admissions evaluations procedures will then be followed, and if there are no admissions restrictions, the student will be enrolled in the department of his or her choice.

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For more information, contact University Advising and Transfer Services, Student Center 304, (435) 797-3373.

## Study Abroad Program

### Overview

The USU Study Abroad Office provides information on a wide range of affordable programs providing USU students with opportunities for study throughout the world. Through exchange partner institutions or consortiums, students can study at more than 100 universities in more than 40 countries worldwide during a semester, academic year, or summer program. Exchange program costs are based on tuition and fees at USU. Students can earn credit toward their degree at USU while studying abroad. In many countries, even when the native language is not English, students can study in English, or have the opportunity to build language skills. Full immersion options are also available at selected sites, based on student language ability.

### Exchange Programs

Students can study in Spanish or the Spanish language at all levels at ITESM University in Mexico. Regular semester coursework is also offered in Spanish at the University of Costa Rica. Another Spanish study opportunity is located at the University de la Rioja, in beautiful Logroño in northern Spain, and the newest opportunity is at Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso, in Valparaíso, Chile. Pontificia Universidade Católica in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil offers students the opportunity to study regular coursework in Portuguese or study the language. London Metropolitan University offers a wide variety of subjects, with students housed near historic Hyde Park. In addition, students can study at Leicester University in Leicester, England, as well as at University College Northampton in Northampton, England, both located just over an hour north of London. Other study abroad programs in English include: study in landscape architecture at University of Ljubljana, Slovenia; American studies at Innsbruck University in Austria; and study in ceramics at Southern Cross University, Australia. At Kansai Gaidai, Kobe, Gifu, and Yokohama National universities in Japan, all levels of Japanese are taught. Students may also earn credits in subjects taught in English at Kansai Gaidai or Yokohama. Keimyung University in Korea, as well as USU's two new prestigious partners, Korea and Sungkyunkwan Universities in Seoul, provide classes taught in English and intensive Korean. Students may study the Thai language, as well as economics, business, and Thai studies courses taught in English, at Thammasat University in Bangkok, Thailand. College of Business students may participate in programs in Australia, Italy, the Netherlands, Sweden, and the United Kingdom. For graduate-level study in economics, exchanges are available in the United Kingdom, Spain, Portugal, Greece, France, or Germany. Students can now study Russian language and culture at St. Petersburg State University and Kazan State University in Russia.

The International Student Exchange Program (ISEP) is one of the most varied study abroad exchange consortium opportunities at USU. Through ISEP, students may study in Africa, Asia, Australia, Canada, Europe, Latin America, or Oceania. ISEP offers traditional European study abroad opportunities at some of the leading institutions in Austria, France, Germany, Hungary, Sweden, Finland, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom. Other opportunities for study include such countries as Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Latvia, Fiji, Iceland, Ghana, and South Africa. There are more than 100 universities to choose from in all. At many of these sites, coursework taught in English is available for semester, academic year, and summer placements. As

ISEP participants, students matriculate directly into a host institution abroad. Direct matriculation means students register as regular students at their host institution, take the same courses, have the same assignments, and participate in the same activities as all other students at that institution.

### Affiliated Programs

Further expansion of short-term or semester-long study opportunities is possible with the addition of the following affiliated program providers: AustraLearn Council (CIEE), International Studies Abroad, Middlesex University (England), and Study Abroad Italy.

### Summer Programs

Students can participate in summer programs at Cambridge University and University College Northampton in England, and through ISEP in Korea, Thailand, the Netherlands, France, and other countries. These programs vary in length from two to six weeks.

### USU Faculty-Led Study Abroad

Faculty at USU take study abroad students to such destinations as Belize for rain forest ecology, Peru for an anthropology field school, and Switzerland for graphic design for short-term summer programs.

Summer language faculty-led programs include: a Spanish language and family home-stay program during May through June of each year, a program at Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso, in Valparaíso, Chile, French language and home-stay in Annecy, France, and an intensive German language program at the Goethe Institute in Freiburg, Germany.

For additional information about these and other programs, contact the Study Abroad Office, Student Center 313B, by phone at (435) 797-0601 or (435) 797-1253; or by e-mail at: [stdyabrd@hass.usu.edu](mailto:stdyabrd@hass.usu.edu). Detailed information is available on the following website: <http://www.usu.edu/stdyabrd>

### Student Support Services

Student Support Services is a special program financed through a federal grant and Utah State University with the purpose of providing additional support to students who meet particular qualifications. The Student Support Services Program seeks to prepare and support students for the challenges of higher education by offering assistance in:

1. academic advising and guidance,
2. tutoring on an individual basis,
3. course selection,
4. faculty mentoring,
5. reading and study skills enrichment (PSY 1750, 1730),
6. math instruction (MATH 0900, 1010, 1050),
7. financial aid planning, and
8. priority registration.

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To qualify for these services, a student must be an American citizen or permanent resident of the United States, must be registered at Utah State University, must demonstrate academic need for services as defined by the institution, and must meet one of the following U.S. Department of Education criteria:

1. low income, as established by the U.S. Commission of Higher Education;
2. disabled, including physical disabilities and learning disabilities; or
3. first-generation college student, meaning that neither of the student's parents have graduated from a four-year institution of higher education.