Getting to know the Academic Enhancement Center (AEC)
AEC Vision

Vision:

The Academic Enhancement Center (AEC) supports student learning and academic success through scaffolding student engagement with course content, helping with the development of metacognitive strategies and skills, critical thinking, writing, time management, and test taking skills. Our programs are primarily peer-to-peer, enabling us to support the development of collaborative learning skills for all students, as well as teaching and leadership skills for student staff. The AEC offers unique resources including 3 forms of tutoring in the STEM disciplines; an Academic Skills Development programming, including UCS 160; and the Writing Center for helping students at all levels of writing skills development.
AEC Organizational Structure
University College for Academic Success

Jennifer Burgess:
AEC Director
& Coord. STEM Tutoring

David Hayes:
Coord. Academic Skills
UCS 160
Academic Consultation

Heather Price:
Coord. The Writing Center

Ceileidh Just:
Asst. Coord. STEM Tutoring

14 WC peer consultants
10 receptionists
WRT 353

93 STEM Tutors; 10 Receptionists
How the Academic Enhancement Center Supports Student Success

- STEM Tutoring
- Writing Center
- UCS 160 and Academic Skills Consultations
STEM Tutoring Programs

- **Undergraduate Staff:**
  - 93 peer tutors representing vast array of majors

- **Weekly Tutoring Groups**
  - 50 minutes in same space with same people
  - 6 students with 1 tutor

- **Drop In Centers**
  - Math, Chemistry, Physics, Biology
  - Monday – Thursday 2:00 - 7:00pm

- **One-Time Group Appointments**
  - Up to 6 students with 1 tutor
  - Non-recurring
Core Functions:

- Provide peer tutorial support in 100 and 200 level math, chemistry, physics, biology, and other select STEM courses

- Leverage peer to peer best practices to support learning aligned with course & instructor specific small groups

- Encourage the development of growth mindset coupled with effective study strategies and content support in STEM courses

- Provide meaningful work experience and professional development for undergraduate tutoring staff
<table>
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<tr>
<th>STEM Support Available</th>
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**BIO:**
- 101 Principles of Biology
- 102 Principles of Biology II
- 220 A&P 1
- 222 A&P 2
- 352 General Genetics (same as CMB 352)

**CHM:**
- 101 General Chemistry
- 103 Introductory Chemistry
- 112 General Chemistry II
- 124 Introduction to Organic Chemistry
- 191 General Chemistry
- 192 General Chemistry
- 227 Organic Chemistry
- 228 Organic Chemistry II

**CMB:**
- 201 Introductory Medical Microbiology
- 211 Introductory Microbiology
- 311 Introductory Biochemistry
- 352 General Genetics (same as BIO 352)

**CSC:**
- 101 Computing Concepts
- 106 The Joy of Programming
- 110 Survey of Computer Science
- 211 Object-Oriented Programming

**ECN:**
- 201 Microeconomics
- 202 Macroeconomics

**MTH:**
- 101 Introduction to College Algebra
- 103 Applied Precalculus
- 107 Introduction to Finite Mathematics
- 108 Topics in Mathematics
- 111 Precalculus
- 131 Applied Calculus I
- 132 Applied Calculus II
- 141 Introductory Calculus
- 142 Intermediate Calculus
- 180 Mathematical Tools for Computing
- 215 Introduction to Linear Algebra
- 243 Multivariable Calculus
- 244 Differential Equations

**PHY:**
- 109 Introduction to Physics
- 111 General Physics I
- 112 General Physics II
- 203 Elementary Physics I
- 204 Elementary Physics II
- 205 Elementary Physics III (limited basis)

**PSY:**
- 200 Quantitative Methods in Psychology (limited basis)

**STA:**
- 220 Statistics in Modern Society
- 307 Introductory Biostatistics
- 308 Introductory Statistics
STEM Program Highlights

- Student-facing technology
- Strategic campus partnerships
- Updated and enhanced recruitment practices

Drop In Tutoring Overall
2,489 hours Sept-Dec ‘19

Chemistry Drop
Math Drop In
Physics Drop In
Biology

3,265 hrs. of support via Weekly Tutoring Groups
293 hrs. of support via Tutoring Appointments

Overall Fall 2019 hours of support: 6,047 hrs. provided to 1,060 unique URI students
The Writing Center

Undergraduate staff:
- 14 peer consultants representing diverse majors
- 10 receptionists trained in WC online and customer service

Consultation Format:
- 1-1 or small group writing consultations
  - 25 or 50 minute

WC Majors:
- Writing & Rhetoric
- English
- Psychology
- Education
- Film
- Communication Studies
- Communicative Disorders
- Pharmacy
- Health Studies
- Marine Biology, Environmental Science
- Kinesiology
- Minors in French, Viola Performance, and Nutrition
Core Functions:

• Students work side-by-side with peer tutors to find ways to best communicate their ideas in writing

• WC Peer Consultants trained via WRT 353: Issues and Methods in Writing Consultancy

• WC consultants trained to assist in any undergraduate course writing assignment

• Tutors can help students get "un-stuck" on any writing assignment, at any stage of the writing process: from understanding a prompt and brainstorming ideas, to outlining and drafting, to developing strategies for revision

• Scheduling ahead of time online is preferred but drop-ins are often available for unscheduled appointments
Writing Center Highlights

• Fall 2019:
  o 914 total appointments
  o 573 different visitors
  o Diverse majors of visitors:
    o Communicative Disorders (89 appointments)
    o Psychology (80 appointments)
    o Health Studies (57 appointments)
    o Nursing (51 appointments)
    o Communication Studies (56 appointments)
    o Education (49 appointments)

Frequently supported courses:
  o WRT 106 (120 appointments)
  o WRT 201 (41 appointments)
  o WRT 104 (36 appointments)
  o ENG 110 (35 appointments)
  o PSY 113 (27 appointments)
  o EDC 102 (25 appointments)
  o CMD 160 (23 appointments)

Class Visits:
  o Outreach to B1 Gen Ed courses
  o Visited all 36 sections of WRT 104 & 106
  o Additional visits to many non-WRT courses
UCS 160 & Academic Skills Consultations

- **UCS 160**: Success in College Learning Environments (1cr.)
  - Analyze learning needs in college settings; Apply effective study and work management strategies; Improve metacognitive awareness and academic skills

- **Academic Skills Consultations**:
  - Available to UCS 160 students and others
  - Connect students with other campus resources to address the challenges in adapting new study strategies
  - Identify areas for improvement and help individual students implement these changes into their learning strategies
Academic Consultations:

• Designed to assist study strategies in any course.

• *Academic Skills Consultations are* 30-minute, 1 to 1 appointments, scheduled through Starfish with Dr. David Hayes

• *UCS 160:* metacognitive understanding of brain function in the learning process introduced to move students to more effective study practices yielding better learning outcomes.
Ongoing Collaborations

- Direct contact with STEM & WRT Faculty
- Working closely with advisors for UCS 160 referrals
- Learning Advisory Board
- ITS and leveraging technology including WebEx, TutorTrac
- Maintaining strategic partnerships with OATL, Talent Development, College of Engineering, Provosts Office, Colleges and Departments
- Close partnership with DSS
## AEC 5 Year Plan 2019/20-2023/24

### 5 Year Plan and Strategic Alignment

#### Primary Objectives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>2019-20</th>
<th>2020-21</th>
<th>2021-22</th>
<th>2022-23</th>
<th>2023-24</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strengthen Strategic Partnerships</td>
<td>Leadership Transition and SWOT</td>
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<td>Improve Access and Outreach</td>
<td>Set Goals and Milestones</td>
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<td>Leverage and Share Data</td>
<td>Implement change and inform stakeholders</td>
<td>Share data impact with campus community</td>
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<td>Continue initiatives that promote diversity &amp; inclusion</td>
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<td>Continuous analysis of strategic alignment and effectiveness</td>
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<td>Continually evaluate areas where the AEC can change/improve in response to campus needs</td>
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Monthly Infographics

Showing Thanks to the STEM Team!

1,032 students served by STEM Tutoring
5,370 hrs of tutoring provided by 80 tutors
574 hrs of desk coverage by 9 receptionists

URI Academic Enhancement Center
Jennifer L. Burgess & Ceiheidh Just
STEM Tutoring Programs
uri.edu/aec/tutoring

AEC collaborations for October 2019 include:
- Center for Career & Experiential Education
- National Day on Writing
- Office of International Students & Scholars
- Office of the Provost
14. c. How much does your institution emphasize the following?

Using learning support services (tutoring services, writing center, etc.)

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>First-Year</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Senior</th>
<th>Percent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very little</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some</td>
<td>167</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>194</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quite a bit</td>
<td>358</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>379</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very much</td>
<td>387</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>275</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>960</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
<td><strong>905</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
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Ways the Faculty Senate Can Support the AEC

• Assist in referring students & prospective tutors to our services

• Understand and tell others what the programs provide

• Include our updated syllabus statement in your syllabus

• Continue to advance the conversation about student support at URI

• Encourage any duplicated tutoring services to share in our training and supervision protocols to ensure quality services
Helpful Resources for Faculty

- [https://web.uri.edu/aec/faculty/](https://web.uri.edu/aec/faculty/)
  - Contains our updated syllabus information
  - Schedules and information on all services
  - Videos and links to learning support

Don’t hesitate to reach out with questions!
AEC at URI

Leadership

Purpose

Vision

Alignment
Questions