MISSION

To promote self-efficacy and lifelong learning by empowering individuals with transformational strategies and resources that foster critical thinking and metacognitive development in order to advance student persistence and success.

In 2017-2018, the Center for Academic Success received 61,910 total visits and 9,040 unique visits.*

*Supplemental Instruction Sessions, Supplemental Instruction Office Hours, Tutoring, and Academic Coaching
The LSU Center for Academic Success (CAS), an award-winning Learning Center of Excellence, continued to equip students to attain higher levels of learning in 2017-18 through the creation and updating of programs and services. The goal of the CAS is to inspire and empower individuals with innovative strategies for learning and teaching by encouraging active learning and critical thinking through metacognitive development – the fundamental foundation for all of the services and resources provided by the CAS. The CAS encourages students to embrace learning as an active, ongoing process that promotes growth in their academic and personal lives.

Students who take advantage of the support and resources offered by the CAS improve their academic confidence, increase their academic performance (i.e., grade-point averages and test scores), persist in their majors of choice and at the university (i.e., retention), and graduate on time. As a result, students maintain scholarships and financial aid, obtain prime employment opportunities, and enter into professional or graduate-level programs ready to succeed.

The staff of the CAS also embraces learning and strives for continued growth. Current, best practices from student learning and development, cognitive science, higher education, and other complementary fields are used to develop new content and enhance current programs and services to maximize effectiveness for an ever-changing student population. In addition to applying these practices to benefit students, the CAS utilizes these experiences to contribute to the learning center community through publishing, presenting at national conferences, and creating content.
The CAS Academic Support unit offers free content/course-based support services to further the CAS mission of helping students persist in their major of choice. Tutoring, Supplemental Instruction (SI), online tutoring, and creative resources provide students with the necessary support they need to increase their performance in targeted courses.

In the 2017-2018 year, Academic Support...

- Earned international certification for the Supplemental Instruction program
- Submitted re-certification for International Tutor Training Program
- Launched NetTutor, a new 24/7 online tutoring service
- Created and implemented SI leader and tutor leadership training programs
The Shell Tutorial Center houses the CAS drop-in/walk-in tutorial program, which includes homework assistance, test preparation, and study strategies. These services are provided by College Reading and Learning Association (CRLA) trained and certified peer tutors. Tutors utilize the most up-to-date, research-based techniques emphasizing critical thinking principles, allowing students to apply these newly learned skills to all disciplines within the university. As a result of this training and experience, tutors improve their own understanding and performance in the disciplines they teach.

Online tutoring is available 24/7 as a complementary tutorial service through NetTutor. Supported by the Student Technology Fee, hundreds of sessions were logged allowing students access to quality tutorial services.

Private tutoring can be arranged through Tutor Matching Service, which is hosted by the CAS as a courtesy to students interested in this fee-based option.
Supplemental Instruction is a series of weekly study group sessions offered for students in historically challenging courses. SI sessions are guided by trained SI leaders - students who have previously taken the course. SI leaders attend class, work closely with instructors and conduct learning sessions to further explain course concepts in order to help students improve their learning, understanding, and performance. SI leaders are trained to provide effective learning strategy techniques to foster critical thinking and learning skills.
The CAS Academic Empowerment unit offers free programs and services, grounded in research-based metacognitive principles. These services encourage students to reach their fullest academic and personal potential by improving their academic performance, critical thinking skills, and self-efficacy.

In the 2017-2018 year, Academic Empowerment...

- Doubled the number of Academic Coaching sessions
- Offered math strategy workshops and small group mini-sessions
- Implemented online appointment scheduling
- Hired an additional academic coach to meet increased demand
Through Academic Coaching, a learning plan is designed and tailored to students’ strengths and challenges. Students are introduced to metacognitive learning strategies that elevate thinking to the college level.

Academic Coaches provide additional support and motivation for students on topics such as stress and time management, goal setting, and exam preparation.

“This [Academic Coaching] session definitely boosted my confidence and gave me the motivation to study and work hard this semester!”

– Fall 2018 Academic Coaching Participant
The CAS conducts workshops and presentations that are available to all students and designed to help improve their overall academic performance.

**GEAUX ACADEMIC**

Offered in the fall semester, this workshop is designed to give first-year students the essential skills necessary for a successful transition to college by exploring the differences in college-level learning and providing practical, metacognitive learning strategies.

122 students attended Geaux Academic in 2017

**IMPACT**

Offered at the beginning of the spring semester, this workshop aims to help first-year students evaluate study habits and provide transformational strategies such as utilizing critical thinking, time management, and stress reduction in order to improve academic performance.

732 students attended IMPACT in 2018

**CLASSROOM AND GROUP PRESENTATIONS**

Offered upon request, these 20-60 minute presentations contain metacognitive strategies to improve learning and performance. The CAS customizes presentations to meet the needs of each group, including Greek organizations, residential halls, and pre-college programs.

1,244 students received classroom presentations in 2017-2018

**COURSE CONNECTIONS**

CAS Course Connections (C3) is a collaborative effort among the CAS and faculty of the courses in which C3 is delivered. C3 provides learning strategies connected to specific course content after first test grades are posted, a time when students are ready to learn new strategies for success.

1,271 students attended Course Connections in 2017

**TRANSITION PROGRAMS**

The CAS works with areas across campus to provide interventions, helping students find success in key courses and programs. Examples include targeting STEM attrition in the Colleges of Science and Engineering, creating strategies for making adjustments to post-graduate programs, and assisting in boot camps and similar programs offered by departments on campus.

E2 306 students

BIOS 517 students

STRIPES 720 students
Faculty Partners serve in an advisory capacity for CAS programs, services, and with discipline-specific content needs. They act as liaisons between the CAS and their department and college to ensure timely and mutually beneficial communication and feedback, and encourage the adoption of active and engaging practices to improve student learning.

Our Faculty Partners:

Matthew Calamia – HSS (Psychology)
Elzbieta Cook – Science (Chemistry)
Yunjung Kim – HSS (Communication Sciences and Disorders)
Julia Ledet – Science (Math)
Dalgis Mesa – Science (Physics and Astronomy)
Steven Pomarico – Science (Biological Sciences)
Heather Rackin – HSS (Sociology)

"My students benefit greatly from having SI in my course. I find that SI helps students comprehend the material at a deeper level and, thus, do well in the course."

– Heather Rackin, Faculty Partner

The Student Advisory Board is utilized to gain insight and direction on programs and resources from the voice of those who are at the center of what we do - LSU students. Students provide feedback for continuous improvement of programs and services, act as a liaison on behalf of the CAS, and assist in promoting CAS programs and services to peer students.

The Academic Support Interest Group is composed of representatives from programs and units that provide academic support services for students. The CAS coordinates this campus-wide collaboration, which shares information regarding academic support services available for students, identifies duplication or gaps in services, and supports peer leader training.
FACULTY FOCUS

Held each summer, Faculty Focus facilitates collaboration and encourages discussion regarding the implementation of high impact educational practices into course instruction.

The 2017-18 workshop, Are You Fall 2018 Ready?, featured the keynote address *Educational Assessment and Fairness: Understanding Achievement Gaps* delivered by Dr. Keena Arbuthnot. Other presentations included *Cultivating the Classroom Environment: Understanding Student Incivilities* from Dr. Gloria Thomas and *Faculty Roles and Communication Strategies* by Dr. Bill Wischusen.

ACADEMIC INTERVENTION TEAM

Coordinated by the CAS, the Academic Intervention Team (AIT), provides timely and appropriate interventions for students facing circumstances that may impede their academic success. Students are identified, and an intervention is intrusively provided based on the student’s unique needs.

OUTREACH

The CAS participates in numerous outreach activities and events, including those held by other departments. You can find the Center for Academic Success at Fall Fest, orientations, information fairs, Kickoff LSU, and more.

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The advancement unit provides support focused on the delivery of services and advancing college learning at LSU and beyond. This unit includes technology support, data operations, assessment and evaluation, marketing and communications, research, operations excellence, and strategic planning.

In the 2017-2018 year, the CAS...

- Contributed to the national learning center community through presentations at the NCLCA National Conference
- Partnered with LSU Student Government for late night study space in the student union during final exams
- Developed templates and document standards for data collection
- Developed key infrastructure documents to support assessment and evaluation

FISCAL CONTRIBUTORS

Shell, LSU Office of the President, Division of Student Affairs, Auxiliary Services, NetTutor, Student Technology Fee Oversight Committee, Academic Affairs, E. J. Ourso College of Business, College of Science, College of Humanities & Social Sciences, College of Agriculture, University College, Campus Federal Credit Union