GETTING THE MOST OUT OF COLLEGE

One of the wonderful things about attending a two-year college is the help that is available to students. From the moment you step foot into the Student Services area, the staff assists in finding the academic path that is best for you. The Learning Center takes over when classes begin. We are your academic support team. Need help with research? Ask at the library. Having trouble in class? Come to the tutor. Need practice more in a place where there is a professional to assist? Visit the Math or Writing lab. Assistive Technology is located here, too. That’s us! Library, tutoring, assistive tech, and the writing and math labs… 8th floor… The Learning Center… FREE.

IS THE LIBRARY A NICE QUIET PLACE FOR ME TO STUDY?

Hmmmm… “yes” and “no” The college librarians want the library to be a friendly, comfortable place for students to study alone or in small groups. However, the library is small and overloaded with students. Sometimes this makes it hard for students to find a quiet place to study. A college library is also a teaching library, so librarians work with students and answer questions. In order to try to meet the needs of quiet solitary users and study groups, the library space is divided into two additional zones: Silent Study is reserved for the tables and study cubicles at the back of the library. It is a nice area with little traffic. Small Group Study is reserved for the small rooms and cubby holes found throughout the library.

Always remember these basic rules of common courtesy:
- No talking on cell phones - please put ringer settings on silent. Go outside the library to answer calls
- When studying in groups, please keep voices to a whisper or low growl. Be courteous toward fellow students, and respect their need for quiet.

WHAT’S IN THE LEARNING CENTER - LIBRARY? It’s not books!

Way up on the 8th floor, abuzz with activity, you’ll find the library, tutor center, and math and writing labs waiting just for you. Your first stop is the Front Desk to get a library card/student ID. There you will find the most textbooks and instructor-reserved books and articles for two-hour checkout. Browse magazines like People, Rolling Stone, Texas Music, and Sports Illustrated. Sign in to the computers for LSCS e-mail, check the catalog, request books, read e-book, or find articles for your research in our many databases. Of course, you can just surf the web. Have your own laptop or netbook? Login LSC free wi-fi anywhere on campus. When you’re ready to start research, schedule an appointment with the Reference librarians, who get a thrill out of digging into an intriguing topic. They’ll help you search the databases, lay out your paper, or understand Works Cited. During crunch time, when you’re trying to finish your research and write your paper, you’ll even find a tutor in the library to help you. Computers in use? Check out a laptop. Did I mention there are no hard cover books? Interesting, right?

Reserve Items

No more excuses if your dog eats your textbook. It happens… we have seen the results! Now you can ask at the circulation desk whether there is a copy of your textbook, assigned reading books, or articles, or a video on reserve for your in-house use.
HOW TO STUDY

We all know students who have studied eight or ten hours for a test – and still failed. Perhaps you have been one of these students. Good study habits are time savers. Test anxiety, note-taking, retaining information, time management and studying for different courses (math, English, science, economics) are all learned skills. Here are five general hints to help you spend your time wisely. Practice them, don’t give up, and they will become part of the way you learn.

1. Study in chunks – 20-40 minute time periods. Take a 5-10 minute break. Do something different and return to your studies.
2. Realize that every hour of study during the day is worth two late at night. Do the work that requires the most concentration first. Review before you go to sleep – and let your subconscious do its job.
3. Rank your classes and be sure to spend the most time on your most challenging course. Every day.
4. Ask yourself questions. Review your notes regularly, restate key concepts. Talk with peers and visit your instructor during office hours.
5. AND, it never hurts to sit in the front of the class and pay close attention. ;-) 

NEED HELP WITH MATH?

Math students! Get help before you get into trouble! Math tutors help with any course from Pre-algebra through Calculus. Tutors move around helping students individually or in small groups. During busy times, students are limited to one hour in the math tutoring area. Check the current semester tutoring schedule and come in anytime during open hours – no appointment needed. Please make sure you arrive with all materials you need (textbook, calculator, etc.), as well as specific questions. If you are taking any of the Developmental Math classes (306, 308, 310) and are interested in a greater commitment to Math tutoring, please ask about Math Study Groups. Make math lab or tutoring a part of your weekly schedule.

THE ASSESSMENT CENTER

By Shane Harris, Assessment Center Coordinator

The University Park Assessment Center offers a quiet, secure environment for your testing needs. Our testing center has 27 computers available (first-come, first-served) as well as an area for the more traditional pencil and paper exams. We offer several different types of testing: placement, instructor, equivalency, and certification. Placement tests consist of COMPASS and ACCUPLACER. For face-to-face classes at Lone Star, a make-up exam can be administered in the testing center. Instructors teaching distance learning and online classes may schedule any student for an exam. Other tests offered in the Assessment Center are CAPE, CLEP, Out-of-District exams, Pearson VUE, and pre-GED. Our regular hours are 8-8 Monday through Thursday, 8-4:30 Friday, and 9-2 Saturday. Summer hours are 8-8 Monday through Thursday and 9-3 Friday and Saturday. If you have questions or would like additional information, you can contact us at 281-401-5314 or upassessmentcenter@lonestar.

A DIGITAL LIBRARY? WHAT?

“...not physically existing, but made to appear by software”

The library at University Park is a digital resource center with access to resources of the libraries within Lone Star College System, Harris County Public Libraries and Montgomery County Memorial Library System. The traditional shelves of books, videos and CDs are replaced by electronic devices, databases and digital media. However, physical items may be requested and delivered to University Park. All of the services available in the other libraries are available at UP library, too. Computer workstations, group or individual study areas and print/copy facilities are available to you. Our resources are in the cloud; the librarians and a friendly staff are right here. Just ask!
Microsoft 2010 in library and labs

Microsoft 2010 is loaded on computers throughout the campus. If you need assistance, the library has student assistants who are tech types and can help with Excel, Word and PowerPoint. Just let us know if you need help.

Avoid Plagiarism! Use Turnitin.com

Merriam Webster Dictionary defines plagiarize: to steal and pass off the words or ideas of another as one’s own ... to use another’s production without crediting the source.

LSC offers an online resource that stores data and compares research assignments by searching the internet and other sources. We encourage you to use Turnitin. Log in by using the passwords shown here. Attach your report and let Turnitin.com match your paper against 130 million student papers, documents, articles, books and internet sources. Many faculty use this source. A large percent of plagiarism is unintended. Don’t find yourself ‘caught’ in a pickle.

Student Success Seminars

The counselors at UP present weekly success seminars in the East Commons behind University Park Café. Each Wednesday at 1:30-2:30 and Thursday from 9:30-10:30, come to a seminar that offers tips that create successful students. Topics include goal setting, mental health, social issues, career leadership, and life management. On Fridays, there is a series you may want to attend focusing on relationships. It is very popular. Give these a try.

Resources for Citing Sources

The library webpage (lonestar.edu/library) has information about MLA Modern Language Association how to accurately site sources using MLA or APA. You will also find excellent handouts for both of these citation methods. Grab one and use it when prepare your assignment.

ESOL Talk Time

Join the weekly Talk Time for all ESOL students. Practice your English – make friends. Days and times will be announced. It is both fun and educational.

Houston Chronicle

In the library you can actually read the Houston Chronicle online and in print. Get the local news, sports, entertainment, obits, local crime, politics, and advertisements in paper. If you have never had newsprint ink on your hands, come to the library and read the local. Smells good, too.

No whiskers on kittens, but we do have....

(Sound of Music fans, please sing along)

Laptops and notebooks, noise blockers and microphones, Webcams, cords, cameras, Nooks, Kindles and earphones, All these and body parts to give your learning more zing, These are a few of our favorite things!

NOTE: most media is for in-house use. Ask at the desk.

Body Parts in the Library

The library, in addition to a disarticulated skeleton, has an eye, ear, lung, heart, and a deluxe kidney and adrenal glands. Of course, they are only models – not the real thing. But, you can check them out for in-house use at the circulation desk. Great for practicing. Come on in. Bring a classmate. Microscope and slides available, too.

The Thin Client

No, a thin client is NOT a skinny library user. It is a computer or a computer program that depends heavily on some other computer (its server) to fulfill its traditional roles. The library is using this technology. The software and other programs that are loaded for library users are actually on a distant server. You want to use Excel? Select it – and it will be served to your computer. No problem. In the future, you will be able to see all of the software that you need for your courses – when you sign in. This should be invisible to you – it is just nice to know about! Neat!
REVIEWS

WHAT’S NEW FOR LITERATURE?
Explore our new Bloom’s Literary Reference Online, a Facts on File database on essays and criticism examining events in the lives of great authors and their works throughout history, from George Abbott to J. D. Salinger and beyond. This reference database has overviews, synopses, analyses, and literary criticism of thousands of works. Looking for help with TOPICS and THEMES? Want to know more about CHARACTERS? Try Bloom’s. You can also learn STRATEGIES for writing good essays, view IMAGES on authors, works and eras. Need information by time period? Use the TIMELINE to access authors and their works from ancient to modern and contemporary times. Videos of Harold Bloom discussing literary works add major value.

NEWS

NBC LEARN COVERS 175 YEARS OF ARCHIVES

LCS has added an exciting on-demand multi-media database to enhance learning across disciplines. NBC Learn Archives is a news archive containing historic stories, images and primary source documents. They begin with photographs of the American Civil War to radio news of the 1930 era to today’s news events from television clips. Updated daily, in-demand videos are brief full stories as reported by famous journalists of the day. Each video has attached bibliographic information, citation generator and a full transcript. These videos may be streamed or downloaded as well as used in PowerPoint presentations. Your instructors will be using these in class. Use NBC Learn Archives for background learning, for sheer pleasure, or for classroom presentations.

TUTORS HELP WITH WRITTEN PAPERS – ALL SUBJECTS

English tutors assist all students with a variety of assignments for English and other courses. We can help with strategies related to reading and studying difficult textbooks, organizing papers, and any step in the writing process - from brainstorming ideas and formulating thesis statements to organizing essays and suggesting methods to proofread and edit drafts. Check the current semester tutoring schedule, and come on in anytime during our open hours – no appointment needed. Come well prepared with your assignment instructions and specific ideas about the areas you want to focus on during the session. If you are interested in a greater commitment to tutoring, please ask about the English Tutor-Coach program. Take advantage of the new Writing Lab run by faculty.

The Learning Center is here to help you learn how to learn.
We’ve gone mobile

For several years the librarians have reached out to students through email, phone, Facebook, and chat. We now offer mobile apps for your convenience. Find out all about it at LSCS Research Apps & Tools page. Link to Help with Research on the LSC Library home page. You’ll find mobile pages for the library catalog and many of the research databases.

45,000 eBooks – virtual and searchable

Find an eBook through the LSC Libraries Catalog. Or, find it through the Database page listed under ebooks and audio books. The advantage of ebooks is that they are easily searchable. This is a huge advantage, particularly to the University Park students, where the library does not have hardcopy books. Students can request that books be sent from any Harris County or Montgomery County Public or another LSC library.

6,000 Videos. No charge.

One of the freebies the library offers is access to over six-thousand videos for college students. They are available using your library barcode from the Research Guides page. Films on Demand covers every possible topic to meet your needs.

eReaders available for two week checkout in the library

The library has added eReaders to the list of audio-visual equipment available for your use. Supplemental books assigned for course readings will be loaded on the e-Readers and available for two-week checkout. Reading Their Eyes Were Watching God for English? Reading Frederick Douglas for history? Check at the circulation desk to see whether your books are available for the eReader. We will buy and load the course reading books—for your use. Textbooks excluded.

It’s ok with us if you want to check out an eReader just to see if you like it, before spending money. ;)

EXTRA

LIVING AT HOME WHILE IN COLLEGE?

Statistics show that 65% of all college students are living at home while getting a college degree. If you are, here are a few hints. Repaint and decorate your room in a more grown-up style. Create a nice study area in your room. Make new friends at the college. Join extra-curricular activities. Learn to manage your own money, balance time and priorities. Hone your life skills by enjoying your parents in a new way. Talk to them about your goals. You are NOT in grade 13, but you are still under your parents roof. Enjoy it while you can.
WHAT HAS THE LIBRARY DONE FOR ME LATELY?

One of the nicest things we have done for students is to prepare and maintain Assignment Guides. When an instructor has a library assignment involving research, they contact the librarians who make an online guide

Assignment Guide Features:

- Include a little background and librarian guidance via audio
- Link to the best scholarly sources accessible on the Internet
- Link to the best databases for the assignment
- Many include short videos that introduce the subject (Frankenstein, Ethics) or add interest to the assignment topic
- Guides are introduced during the library session
- Completely accessible via any online computer

ENTERTAINMENT

NML has over 75,000 tracks of classical, jazz, blues, gospel new age, world, folk, and Chinese music recordings along with text information about the musical works.

Features:

- Create a playlist and download the app for listening
- 1000 new tracks added each month
- Keep up with your playlist and what is new on Facebook and Twitter
- Use the music to enhance your assignment or to get to know the music of the world
- Not likely you will find Lady Gaga, but there is much to be enjoyed and appreciated.
- There is a small section by Spoken Word, reading books – especially children’s musicals.

Google Art Project

Google has spectacular applications. One of our favorite is the Art Project. (google.artproject.com). This is a collaborative project that contains over 30,000 art works from around the world, including the art of over 150 museums. Enjoy this project from your own computer. As usual with Google, the Art Project is interactive. Select the art you want for your own folder or share it with friends.

Digital Media Catalog

Do you read with your young children? Enjoy video night with the family? Listen to music in your car? Enjoy a good mystery? If so, use the Harris County Public Library catalog and download digital resources. Overdrive is a free software app. To begin using these, view the Help-Quick Start Guide. Overdrive will download to most devices. The public library contains a large collection for work & play.

For research, Lone Star College Libraries have eBook and eAudio collections. Download information is available on the Ebsco eContent website. The college collection is more directed toward a research collection.
LSC LIBRARY RESOURCES LISTED IN GOOGLE SCHOLAR & GOOGLE BOOKS

Use your favorite search engine to find research worthy resources from the LSCS Library Catalog and Databases. OR... Did you know you can start your search in Google Scholar and link directly to full-text articles from Lone Star College Libraries’ databases?

Go to Books.Google.com and search or browse topics or specific titles. Many classic novels are available full-text. For others, use the find in a library link, enter your zip code (or 77070) to find out if Lone Star College System is listed. This link will go directly to the book listing in our Library Catalog. Bookmark us.

FREE SOFTWARE HELPS CELEBRATE YOUR CREATIONS

Google these five products and use them regularly for your presentation and assignments. There are freebies for mindmapping, charting, and more. We like these. We will help you learn to use them.

1. Use Wordle.net to create a word cloud. Use it for a heading in your presentation, vocabulary words, word cloud a speech and discover the speakers themes. (See word cloud below, listing Success Seminars.)
2. Audiograbber allows users to change the CD format to .wav or .mpe for use on the web or in a presentation.
3. Audacity is a software we use to edit or create audio files. Easy and free.
4. Jing allows you to create screen prints. Download, create, add text or arrows. Try Snagit, too. Paint and Snipit and PowerPoint. Microsoft Office has beefed up their abilities. Give them another chance.
KEEPING UP WITH TECHNOLOGY
Jimmi Rushing, Reference Librarian

A new forecast published by Cisco Systems, Inc. predicts that, by 2015, there will be two internet connected devices for every person in the world. Whether you are choosing a device or looking for applications for school, work or fun, here are a few starting places good to know.

Trying to decide which smartphone, e-reader or tablet computer to buy? Start with CNet.com for objective information about the latest News, Reviews or Downloads.

Lonestar.edu/Library now features a mobile friendly menu - and mobile friendly versions of library article databases! Learn more at Research Apps & Tools page: www.lonestar.edu/library/15366. The page also features selected internet tools and apps that make it easy to manage your time, collect and organize your research, and cite sources.

New ‘cloud technology’ applications from Apple, Amazon, Google and more help you share your favorite web sites, music and documents between home and mobile devices and utilize the internet as a group workspace to create and show presentations and videos. Try space sharing for group projects.

Join our community group and learn more about some of these tools for working with images, creating and sharing presentations and other documents and collaborating for group assignments. Log into MyLoneStar, find the LSC-Online link and search for community group: “About Student Success from the Library, Learning Center and Counselors.” (See large ad.) https://myonline.lonestar.edu/section/home/default.asp

THE VERSATILE BARCODE
Use your library/id card to

1. Log on to a computer
2. Request library materials
3. Check out books and other resources
4. Access databases from off campus
5. Print
6. Use the Testing Center
7. Get discounts from local shops.

Being Successful means...

Being successful in college does not mean you are the smartest person in the class. You can actually be a B student with an occasional A or C. Your grade does not describe how successful you are. The biggest mistake of non-successful students is that they quit or drop the class. You can’t be successful if you aren’t there. To be successful you need to:

1. Know the answer to, “Why am I in college?” (And, it has nothing to do with insurance.)
2. Take at least one class every semester. Keep on keeping on.
3. Set clear goals for each course. Triage ruthlessly. Some classes are more important to your future than others. Figure it out – and work accordingly.
4. Learn the material the first time it is presented. Read the textbook, take notes, ask questions, and seek help.
5. Attend every class and sit up front.
6. Set up a regular study schedule and study the hardest courses first.
7. Don’t squander your leisure time hanging around doing nothing. Go out and do something active that will blow off steam and increase your energy.
8. Take part in campus life.
9. Get advice on what courses to take, and talk with friends about the instructors’ teaching methods.
10. Take advantage of the academic support available free in the library, learning center, and labs.

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