

# Academic Programs and Resources

## The Department of University Studies within the University College

The Department of University Studies integrates campus-wide academic programs supporting student success at Kennesaw State University. These programs include an award-winning Honors program, an exciting Learning Communities curriculum, internationally recognized First year and Senior-Year Experience programs, and a developing Sophomore-Year initiative. Working closely with the General Education Program, all of these initiatives help students find essential connections among the threads of their undergraduate experience, celebrating the synthesis of information and ideas critical to a liberal education. Entering students who need academic assistance in English, reading and mathematics can also find support in University Studies, which offers special preparatory courses for traditional, non-traditional, and

international students who have just matriculated but need their basic skills refreshed. Finally, the department's well-staffed math and English-as-a-second-language laboratories make walk-in tutorial instructions available to students across campus.

### Honors Program

The Kennesaw State Honors Program has two divisions: the Undergraduate Honors Program and the Joint Enrollment Honors Program. Recipient of a 1999 University System of Georgia Board of Regents Teaching Excellence Award, KSU's Undergraduate Honors Program offers entering first year students or currently enrolled students opportunities for academic enrichment in regular or Honor-designated courses, as well as in applied contexts outside the traditional classroom. The Undergraduate Honors curriculum is particularly noteworthy for its emphasis on flexibility, self-direction, and interdisciplinary perspectives. In the Joint Enrollment Honors Program, high school juniors and seniors take

KSU courses for both high school and college credit. These courses may include special Honors sections of the English, Political Science, Economics, and Mathematics classes required for high school graduation, and are at least partially subsidized by the state's Post-Secondary Options Tuition Grant.

First time, full time students with less than 15 credit hours are required to take either KSU 1101 or KSU 1102 in their first semester at Kennesaw. At this point, there is only one course that qualifies as an approved substitution for KSU 1101 and that is BIOL 2101. Some of the KSU 1102 learning communities will also have a KSU 1101 embedded as part of the linked courses. This unique program at Kennesaw has proven to significantly improve student academic achievement and persistence in college.

### **KSU 1101/First-Year Experience**

Initiated as only a single course, this program designed for first year or transfer students with fewer than 30 credits, has developed into a comprehensive academic program with its own director and faculty. While the course has changed over the years, the KSU First-Year Seminar's primary focus on student success and campus orientation has remained constant. Letter grades are assigned to students and they earn three elective credits toward graduation. More than half of all entering new students elect to take the course in their first year of college. Faculty collaborate, share syllabi, and cooperate developing co-curricular experiences to enhance learning as described below.

### **KSU 1102/CLASS—Communities for Learning Success**

Communities for Learning Success help entering, first-year students adjust easily to college life and improve their chances for a successful college career. In each community, a group of twenty-five first-semester students enroll in the same sections of two or more first year classes. Because they take these classes together, these students get to know each other quickly, forming lasting friendships and their own small tight-knit community within the considerably larger 19,000-student

university. Communities for Learning Success provide the perfect environment for successful learning. Because they know each other well, first year students are more comfortable speaking out in class and working collaboratively. They form natural study groups and support groups with their peers. They begin to see connections between their courses through specially designed assignments. Academic research shows that participation in learning communities consistently improves students' retention as well as their GPA—keeping them in college and helping them to be more successful.

### **KSU 2290/UpperCLASS Learning Communities**

UpperCLASS Learning Communities focus on second year students and are uniquely designed to meet specific disciplinary needs.

### **KSU 4401/Senior-Year Experience**

A "bookend" to the First year-Year Experience, the Senior-Year Experience is a program designed around an institutional capstone course, KSU 4401, which offers upper classmen an opportunity to learn how best to prepare for the "post-university" experience. With its director and team of designated faculty, the Senior-Year Experience Program focuses on career development, graduate school explorations, and community service opportunities. Students earn three hours of upper-level elective credit, develop a portfolio that highlights their skills and experience, and collaborate with peer teams and experienced faculty.

### **Community Based Learning**

An on-going initiative, the KSU Community Based Learning programs are important across the campus and exist in many forms depending on the discipline. Through the Community Based Learning Fellows program, one faculty member from each discipline serves as a coordinator from their college to facilitate, assess, and develop community based learning activities. Academically based community engagement benefits the community, the college, the university, the department, and the student. By emphasizing experiential learning, it enhances curriculum-based academic knowledge while meeting community needs. The program is

coordinated out of the Office of the Dean of Undergraduate & University Studies and the University College.

### **English as a Second Language**

International students for whom English is a second language can find instruction and support in Learning Support Programs. The ESL director assists international students with transitions in language and culture, providing extensive testing for admission and placement along with appropriate diagnostic recommendations. In keeping with LSP's continuing commitment to student success across all academic levels, the ESL Program recently had two new courses approved: ESL 1105 and 1106. These courses are specifically geared to non-native speakers of English, offering intensive study of grammar, usage, and pronunciation of the English language. Application of course material will be in the form of written and oral presentations, with particular emphasis on professional adaptations that might be required of business or nursing majors.

The premiere Conversation Partners program coordinated out of University Studies, pairs native students, faculty, and staff with International students. Improving retention as well as helping to internationalize our campus, this popular program is offered both fall and spring semesters.

### **Learning Support Programs**

Learning Support Programs have a specific mission: providing academic support to those students whose entrance and placement scores indicate that they need remedial instruction before they enroll in regular credit classes. Students whose SAT or ACT scores are in the lower quadrant of all applicants are required to take the corresponding sub-tests of COMPASS (Computer –Adaptive Placement Assessment and Support System). The Office of Admissions, the CAPS Center, or the Department of University Studies will contact students needing to take these courses. According to these placement scores, students may be placed in Learning Support courses in English, math, or reading. These are non-credit courses such as English 0099 (grammar

and composition), Math 0097 (Elementary Algebra), Math 0098 (Intermediate Algebra), and Reading 0099 (Reading Comprehension and Vocabulary Skills). Learning Support courses are designed so that students may complete all requirements in an area in a maximum of two semesters.

Since these are academic assistance courses, there are certain restrictions placed by the Board of Regents and/or by Kennesaw State University upon students enrolled in these courses. The following restrictions apply to all Learning Support students: Students must register for the LSP courses they are required to take each semester of enrollment at KSU before they are eligible to register for any regular credit courses. If they do choose to take credit courses at the same time, these courses must not have LSP courses as prerequisites. They may not, however, accumulate more than 20 hours of academic credit before completing all Learning Support requirements. They also may not attempt any Learning Support discipline more than two times. Students may not withdraw from their Learning Support courses unless they withdraw from credit courses as well. Although these courses do not carry degree credit, students do receive institutional credit and thus may satisfy requirements for VA benefits and other financial assistance. Unsuccessful completion of Learning Support requirements by students will result in exclusion from further study at KSU. Also, the program offers two courses in Regents test preparation, Reading 0020 and English 0020. In addition, the program provides a variety of tutorial services, including ESL tutoring for non-native speakers, math tutoring for math students and writing assistance for non-traditional students.

### **The Math Lab**

The Math Lab is a free, on campus tutoring service available to all currently enrolled KSU students. Services are on a first-come, first-serve basis. Access to videos, software, such as Scientific Notebook, Workplace, NovaNet, and other math-related computer software is also available. Tutors assist students with the understanding of math concepts, analysis of math problems, and skill building. All tutors

have had Calculus I or higher and have completed the KSU tutor training workshop.

The lab is located on the 4th floor of the Library in room 433. For other information about the Math Lab, call 770-423-6044.

## The Division of Continuing Education

Continuing Education at Kennesaw State University is a creative and flexible way to continue learning and acquiring new skills throughout your life. Offering more than 2,600 noncredit programs, online and in the classroom, we are your professional development and personal enrichment partner, proudly serving 26,000 community members annually.

If you already have a college degree or are already in the workforce, we can help you gain current, practical, professional skills to help you advance or even make a career change. Staying current with the rapid changes in today's business world requires special training-continuing education training. You can choose from career assessment and planning programs for testing and consultation, one-day workshops, life enrichment classes and certificate programs. Certificate programs are available in a wide variety of areas including management & leadership, landscape/horticulture, healthcare, paralegal, personal trainer, human resources, event planning, TESOL, web design, technical writing, project management, and advanced technology areas including cyber security, and many more. Programs can also be customized to meet the needs of business and industry, and can be taught at our facilities or yours by our team of professional instructors. All customized training is designed to provide immediate, practical, and long-term application of new knowledge and techniques that increase productivity and job satisfaction.

A wide variety of personal interest courses in culinary art, fitness, visual arts and home and garden are available throughout the year. In

addition, Continuing Education offers specialized, age-appropriate programs through KIDS College, and The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (Ages 50 and older).

Continuing Education Units (CEUs) are assigned to all professional development programs with one CEU awarded for 10 contact hours of participation. Several selected courses carry PLUs for teacher recertification. Transcripts of earned CEUs are available upon request. KSU employees may attend Continuing Education programs at no cost, or nominal cost, on a space available basis. Exceptions to this policy may occur with technology courses. Book and supply/material fees may apply.

Visit the Continuing Education website at <http://www.kennesaw.edu/ConEd> or call 770-423-6765 for more information and to request a current course catalog.

## The Institute for Global Initiatives

The Institute for Global Initiatives (IGI) provides academic programs and services to internationalize the curriculum and expand international opportunities for KSU faculty, staff and students and the larger community that KSU serves. It supports and promotes KSU's mission of international education by initiating programs, responding to external funding opportunities, and providing leadership for the institution's regional centers. It collaborates with divisions, colleges, departments, and other units to ensure the infusion of international dimensions into teaching, scholarship, and community service. At the heart of the IGI is the Office of International Services and Programs (OISP). The OISP coordinates a wide range of international programs and events, including study abroad and the annual country-study program, and also assists international faculty and students with visa issues.

## Teacher Resource and Activity Center (TRAC)

The Teacher Resource and Activity Center, located in Kennesaw Hall Room 2005, is sponsored by the Bagwell College of Education and open to all KSU students, faculty, and staff. Designed specifically to meet the needs of professional teachers and education majors in the teacher preparation program, the center offers a curriculum library, media services, and instructional materials. It also provides a variety of unique professional development opportunities to educators in the geographic areas served by the University, including mini-grants for innovative projects, the Project RESPECT mentoring program, and a regular workshop series.

The center maintains a large library of professional books and periodicals, textbooks for curriculum planning at all grade levels, theme-related activity guides, supplemental kits, and educational videos. It also houses a production workroom equipped with a copy machine, laminators, spiral and heat binders, poster printers, paper cutters, badge makers, and other assorted machines that support the development of classroom materials. The TRAC has an extensive die-cut collection of over 500 shapes, letters, and numbers for creating bulletin boards and learning center manipulatives. Additional equipment such as computers, opaque projector, tape recorder, CD player, and televisions with VCRs are available for use in the TRAC. Friendly staff is available to assist visitors.

## Writing Center

The Writing Center, located in Humanities Rm. 242, is a free service available to all members of the university community. Tutors assist writers from any discipline and at any stage of the writing process, including topic development, organizing, drafting, revising, grammar, punctuation, and documentation. The Writing Center also provides students with introductory information and instruction on the essay portion of the Regents' Test. The Writing Center encourages writing across the curriculum in all classes and serves as a resource center for the practical and theoretical aspects of composition theory.

Writing Center hours of operation for the academic year:

Monday - Thursday  
9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Friday  
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Sunday  
1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

To schedule an appointment with a tutor, call 770-423-6380 during regular hours. For additional information, visit the Writing Center website: <http://www.kennesaw.edu/english/WritingCenter/index.shtml>.

