



The Pirate Tutoring Center

*Annual Report 2008-2009 Academic Year
East Carolina University*



Filling a Need

The Strategic Enrollment Management Task Force (SEMTF) at East Carolina University identified “Improving Student Retention and Graduation” as one of the four most critical issues impacting the university. For the last five years, the retention rate (freshman-to-sophomore year) for first-time, full-time freshmen has consistently been 77% - 78% and four-year graduation rates hover around 28%.

To assist in retention and graduation support efforts the Pirate Tutoring Center (PTC) was established in February 2008. Ms. Elizabeth Coghill led the effort to provide campus-wide tutoring to students. She researched UNC institutions to identify successful academic assistance programs targeted to freshman/sophomore students. Peer-tutoring was determined to be an effective and affordable system. Seven months after initiating the PTC, the center began providing evening tutoring services along with other programs.

PTC Mission

The PTC programming encompasses several program components designed to assist in the retention of ECU students. These include:

- Peer Tutoring at Joyner Library
- Individual Student Consultations and Tutoring Referrals
- Specialized Workshops
- Residence Hall Outreach
- Campus Collaborations



“Helped me
understand concepts
in Biology and
improved my grade to
a *B!*”

—Student Tutee, Fall 2008

Peer Tutoring at Joyner Library

Currently, the PTC operates in Joyner Library and is open on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 6:30 to 9:30 P.M. Peer Tutors provide one on one tutoring for the following subjects:

English 1100/1200 and upper level writing assistance

Biology 1050/1060/1100/1200/2140

Chemistry 0150/ 1150/1160/1120/1130

Geology 1500/1550

Physics 1250/1260

Math 0045/0001/ 1065/ 1066/2283

History 1030/1031/1050/1051

Psychology 1000

Political Science 1010

Sociology 2110

Accounting 2401/2521

Economics 2113/2133

Finance 2244

French 1001-1004

German 1001-1004

Japanese 1001-1004 (Fall 2008 only)

Russian 1001-1004 (Fall 2008 only)

Spanish 1001-1004

“PTC was the
difference between a
C and *B* in chemistry
for me, so I consider
it to be a great
success. THANK
YOU!!”

—Tutee, Fall 2008



Class and Ethnicity of Tutees

	Fall 2008	Spring 2009	Total 2008-2009
Number of Tutoring Visits	1,062	1,282	2,344
Freshman	637 (60%)	731 (57%)	1368 (58%)
Sophomore	255 (24%)	320 (25%)	575 (25%)
Junior/Senior	170 (16%)	231 (18%)	401 (17%)
Caucasian	765 (72%)	856 (66%)	1621 (69%)
Students of Color	256 (24%)	397 (31%)	653 (28%)
Not identified	41 (4%)	29 (2%)	70 (3%)



Very Positive Student Response

In the tutoring-session evaluation surveys, students using PTC tutoring services have responded very positively.

- 52% of students using PTC tutoring services attended four or more times.
- 80% report using the PTC and no other tutoring service on campus.

What Tutees are Saying About the PTC

Students could write additional comments on the PTC survey.

“A huge impact would not have passed chemistry! Really appreciate it.”

—Student Tutee, Fall 2008

“Coming on a regular basis has allowed me to be able to keep up in class and keep up with my homework in my more difficult classes as well as the classes that I may not find as challenging.”

—Student Tutee, Spring 2009

“I feel much more confident and prepared because of this service. My math tutor was very nice and helpful to me and I really appreciated how she worked one on one with me on my work.”

—Student Tutee, Fall 2008

“It helped boost my grade by a lot. I'm happy with the results.”

—Student Tutee, Fall 2008

3056 Tutoring Hours 2008-2009

3056
X \$15 (typical tutoring fee)
\$45,840 free tutoring
to students



Volunteer Peer Tutors

The PTC is the only center on campus with **volunteer tutors**—all other tutoring or course consulting centers use paid tutors. Student volunteers are recruited to serve as peer tutors.

Potential tutors are vetted through an application process and must meet these criteria:

- Minimum overall GPA of 3.0 in 30 semester-hours at ECU
- Full-time student with a desire to serve
- Three ECU faculty references from selected course areas
- A grade of *A* or *B* earned at ECU in selected courses that they tutor
- Excellent communication skills

	Fall 2008	Spring 2009
Number of Tutors	81	96
Number of Volunteer Tutoring Hours	1,262	1,794
Tutors with a 3.5+ GPA	60%	60%
% Teaching Fellows	55%	55%
% Honors Students	47%	47%

Individual Student Consultations and Tutor Referrals

The PTC offers individual student study skills consultations with students by appointment. Learning Specialists and COAD department graduate assistants meet with students to build success strategies, enhance student study skills, provide GPA projections and provide tutor referrals to other campus resources.

	Fall 2008	Spring 2009
Number of Individual Student Appointments	57	66
% Freshman	61%	69%
% Sophomore	27%	17%
% Also Attending PTC peer tutoring	60%	43%



Specialized Workshops

The PTC sponsored several workshops throughout the year designed to reach specific cohort of students. These included GPA Survivor, Residence Halls, Study Skills, final exam preparation, and COAD 1000 class presentations.

	Survivor May 2008	Survivor Fall 2008	Survivor May 2009
Attendees	189	81	79
% of students who did not take COAD 1000	69%	Not available	69%
Freshman	54%	58%	70%
Upperclassmen	46%	42%	30%

Residence Hall January 2009	COAD 1000
69 Attendees	26 Presentations
96% Freshmen	255 Student Follow-Up
4% Upperclassmen	100% Freshmen
71% Caucasian Students 29% Students of Color	

Residence Hall Outreach

Coordinated by Jennifer Abbott, residence hall outreach initiatives included academic probation workshops, final exam prep dining hall outreach, RA “Program in an Bag” series, website resources for RA’s and an email campaign designed to educate Residence Hall Coordinators and Residence Hall Assistants of key academic dates and advising information.

Campus Collaborations

The PTC has been active in many campus arenas. These include:

- Joyner Library programming and tutoring nights
- Establishment of Tutoring website for all campus tutoring centers
- Semester meetings with ECU tutoring resources
- Weeks of Welcome Committee with Student Life
- Faculty/Tutor Dinners interacting faculty with peer tutors
- Human Ecology Math Retention Project 2008-2009
- Nursing grant submission with ECU School of Nursing
- Three grant submissions with Dr. David Conde for Latino students
- University Writing Center tutoring nights
- Grant submission with Kimberly Baker-Flowers, Office of Institutional Diversity
- Featured Speakers in Orientation sessions and COAD 1000 classes



Contact Information

Mrs. Elizabeth Hand Coghill
Associate Director, Pirate Tutoring Center
hande@ecu.edu

2500 Old Cafeteria Complex
Moving to: Joyner Library August 2009
East Carolina University
Greenville, NC 27853-4353

Phone: 252.737.2011
Fax: 252.328.6657