This year, the Academic Support Center (ASC) scaled up its services to include greater tutoring availability for core subject areas, additional skill-building workshops (such as our research writing series, co-sponsored with the Learning Resources Division last fall), and new outreach efforts to students on academic probation (in coordination with the Academic Advising Center).

The ASC is pleased to report that we served 248 students last semester, for a total of 505 office visits. In these visits, we saw a wider variety of students than in previous years. While the demand for writing tutoring in English courses remains high, this demand now cuts across the curriculum, and has grown increasingly popular for social science courses like history and political science. In addition, more students visit the ASC for support in mathematics courses, and for study space when other tutorial units are closed. The above chart breaks down Fall 2011 student visits to the ASC by course subject areas.

The Spring 2012 term has also been bustling with activity. We have 6 new writing tutors joining us from Dr. Krauthamer’s Peer Tutoring course. We encourage you to visit our us in person, or to review our tutorial offerings online at: [http://www.udc.edu/asc/schedule.htm](http://www.udc.edu/asc/schedule.htm).

We look forward to another semester of supporting undergraduate academic success!

### Guide to Scheduling Tutoring Appointments

Appointments must be set up 24 hours in advance. To arrange an appointment, students can:

- Look up subject availability and tutor schedules online at [www.udc.edu/asc](http://www.udc.edu/asc) and send an e-mail request to asc@udc.edu
- Set up an appointment directly via GradesFirst
- Visit us in Building 32, Suite B-103
- Call us at (202) 274-5938

### A Special Congratulations...

Deborah Dessaso, ASC Writing Resource Coordinator, recently attended the Sigma Tau Delta International Honors Society’s annual convention in New Orleans, LA in order to participate in a panel on Practices and Pedagogies in English. She shared first place in the alumni category for her paper, “(W)hat (T)he (L)ingua (F)ranca is Happening to Writing?”
Tutor Spotlight: Peter Rotich, ASC Math Tutor

The Academic Support Center is proud of our team of accomplished undergraduate tutors. Each semester, we will highlight a tutor from one of our discipline areas. Additional tutor profiles can be found on our website.

An ASC Math Tutor, Peter Rotich is a UDC senior completing a B.B.A. in Accounting. He grew up in Kenya, and moved to the United States after graduating high school in 2007. He received an athletic scholarship to attend Southwestern Community College in Iowa. There he became an NJCAA All-Regional Qualifier for track and field. While at SWCC, Peter also tutored math, computer applications, and sociology. In 2009, Peter transferred to UDC in order to further his studies in Accounting. He joined the UDC cross-country and track and field teams and has enjoyed competing at the NCAA Division II level. In his time at UDC, Peter has also joined the Accounting Club, the UDC chapter of the National Association of Black Accountants, and the USGA Student Elections Board. He returned to tutoring as a Math Peer Tutor for the 2011 Urban Scholars’ Academy, a UDC summer bridge program. In addition, Peter has been working as a Math Tutor at the Academic Support Center since the Fall 2011 semester, providing students with assistance in Intermediate Algebra, College Math I/II, and Finite Mathematics. When he’s not working or studying, Peter enjoys running and playing volleyball.

For Students: Top 5 Tips for Academic Success

1. Get Organized
Keep a master calendar or planner to keep track of all assignment due dates, academic deadlines, and personal events. Schedule in study time as would class time. Remember that for every 1 hour spent in class, you should be spending 2-3 hours outside of class reviewing notes, reading course materials, and working on assignments. Do you only have class on Mondays and Wednesdays? Make sure you are studying during the rest of the week, too!

2. Set Clear Goals
Decide realistic academic goals each term by reflecting on your academic history, your various responsibilities (i.e. work, family), along with your values and priorities. Divide your goals into manageable steps and set benchmarks like due dates, or other indicators of progress. For instance, if your goal is to earn an “A” on a big research paper, set deadlines for finalizing your research question, conducting a literature review, writing your first draft, etc. Treat yourself each time you meet a benchmark and celebrate when your final goal is achieved.

3. Study Smarter
Learn what works for you. Do you have difficulty focusing in noisy settings? Do you remember concepts better by talking them out with peers? Are you a visual learner? Try adjusting your study habits accordingly: work in the library on weekends instead of at home; set up study dates with your classmates; use flashcards rather than traditional note-taking. When studying for midterms, review any comments and grades you received on quizzes or writing assignments, then revisit concepts that are unclear by re-reading relevant parts of the textbook.

4. Conquer Procrastination
Often, starting is the hardest part. Don’t worry about the outcome, or let yourself become intimidated by the task at hand. Try spending 45 minutes on a task, followed by a 15 minute break. Repeat until you’ve finished!

5. Create a Resource Network
Connect with classmates to study or when you miss a class and need a recap. Visit faculty during office hours to ask questions and get assistance. Seek out tutoring and, if applicable, accommodations for physical or learning disabilities. Check in early and often with your academic advisor. Talk out stress with a counselor. Find an upperclassmen or faculty mentor. Your campus is full of people are resources who want to see you succeed!