

## Just LARcing Around

LARC Newsletter

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Volume I Issue I

### Feel Free to Lurk at the LARC!

Lurking at the LARC is a great way to keep good grades! The LARC is full of friendly tutors, wearing red vests, just waiting to help you along on your academic journey.

**Worried about keeping up in college?** Come by the LARC and get help with learning new study skills and habits! Also, stop by regularly to find out when we're having workshops or study sessions. We have tutors of all different experience levels so the LARC is a great place to pick someone's brain about a class or how to be successful in college.

**Need to do some research?** The LARC is the place to do it! We've made research simple by providing you with access to thousands of online journals, newspapers, magazines, videos, and other peer-reviewed scholarly sources. You can also check out books from our collection or request one through MOBIUS.

**Can't come to the LARC in person?** You can access many of the LARC's great resources online! Links to all of our online databases are on the LARC webpage so you can find articles anytime and anywhere. You can even get access to one of our virtual tutors through Blackboard, or take advantage of online tutoring through *Smarthinking 24/7*.

**Don't need a tutor?** The LARC is full of computers and printers that you can use to work on homework. The best part about studying at the LARC is that if you come across an assignment you don't understand or get stuck on a problem, there's always tutors on staff to ask for help!

Whether you need help accessing an eBook for your class, setting up notifications in Canvas, logging into MyMathLab, finding sources through EBSCO, or specific help with a class, the LARC is the place to *lurk* for help. Just look for the red vests!



HOW CAN  
WE HELP  
YOU?



#### The LARC Provides:

- ⇒ FREE Walk-In Tutoring
- ⇒ FREE Virtual/Online Tutoring
- ⇒ Research Databases
- ⇒ Access to EBSCO & MOBIUS
- ⇒ Computers, Printers, Scanners
- ⇒ Workshops/Study Sessions
- ⇒ Help With Study Skills
- ⇒ One-on-One Assistance

*"IF YOU ARE NOT  
WILLING TO LEARN,  
NO ONE CAN HELP YOU.  
IF YOU ARE DETERMINED  
TO LEARN,  
NO ONE CAN STOP YOU."*

- ZIG ZIGLAR

Half the Class, Twice the Work

Online vs. In-Seat

Meet the Red Vests!

College Success Tips

Learning Techniques

NEW Online Service!

## Half the Class, Twice the Work

**Considering taking an eight week class? Here are some things to keep in mind.**

Getting three credit hours in eight weeks instead of 16 sounds like a no brainer. Who wouldn't want to get twice the credit in half the time? However, what is often overlooked is the fact that just because the time required is cut in half, the course-work required is not.

The same amount of material has to be covered in an eight week class as what has to be covered in its 16 week equivalent. Eight week classes require serious time and dedication in order to achieve a good grade. There's nothing wrong with wanting to get a class out of the way over the summer or in another eight week session. Just remember that you'll still be doing 16 weeks worth of class: Half the time, twice the work.



## Online vs. In-Seat



## Which Class is Best for YOU?

Ever wondered about the differences between online and in-seat classes? Before enrolling in classes it's a good idea to look at what format will be the most beneficial to you. Among MACC's different class options are online and in-seat. Some students like both types of classes while others prefer one over the other. Below are a few things to keep in mind before you enroll. It's also a good idea to meet with an advisor and ask them about different class options before you register for classes each semester. Already enrolled? You may still be able to switch classes if you think it would be beneficial. Otherwise, keep this information in mind for next semester.

### Online Classes

- ⇒ Need access to computer/printer/scanner
- ⇒ Good/reliable Internet connection
- ⇒ Must be able to communicate well online with professor & other students
- ⇒ MUST be self-motivated
- ⇒ Need to be highly organized
- ⇒ Keep current with reading assignments
- ⇒ Typically there is no face to face contact between you and your professor
- ⇒ Online usually costs more per credit hour

### In-Seat Classes

- ⇒ Need to attend lecture
- ⇒ Need to take good lecture notes
- ⇒ Keep current with reading assignments
- ⇒ Face to face communication between you, your professor, & classmates
- ⇒ Better opportunity to make friends and be part of the college community
- ⇒ Provides a more interactive experience & makes it easier to ask questions
- ⇒ Usually costs less per credit hour

# Meet the Red Vests!

Wearing red vests at the LARC doesn't have the same meaning as wearing a red shirt on *Star Trek*, for which our tutors are very grateful! Instead of an untimely demise, red vests at the LARC indicate certified, peer tutors who are available to help when you get stuck in a class or with an assignment. Getting help from tutors is a great way to improve your grades and reach your academic goals. Our tutors understand what it's like to have difficulty in a certain class or subject so there's no reason to feel nervous or embarrassed about asking them for help. Helping students is what they are here for!

Not sure if you want to work with a tutor? Come in and get to know them. Lurking ... er, *studying* at the LARC, is a great way to get acquainted. And remember, at the LARC, seeing red is a good thing!



MACC Fall Combined Tutor Training. Not pictured: Jessica Heintz.

## In-Person Tutoring

Generally, there is one or more tutors on staff at the LARC during normal business hours. Schedules showing the times at which each tutor is on staff and what subjects they are best able to help you with are available online and at the LARC. No appointments are necessary for in-person tutoring. Come in whenever you need!

## Virtual Tutoring

Can't make it to campus to meet with a tutor in-person? You can meet with one of our tutors virtually through Blackboard! Virtual tutoring is available during the LARC's normal business hours and you can set up an appointment to meet in our virtual tutor room online by sending an email to: [virtualltutor@macc.edu](mailto:virtualltutor@macc.edu)

## Online Tutoring Through *Smarthinking*

Sometimes you can't make it to the LARC or meet with a virtual tutor during the LARC's normal business hours, and we understand that. That's why MACC provides all of its students with free, 24/7 access to *Smarthinking*. You can access *Smarthinking* through Canvas by clicking the Student Resources tab and scrolling down.

## Tips for College Success

- ⇒ Turn off your cellphone during class, or turn it to silent.
- ⇒ Take good lecture and reading notes.
- ⇒ Don't skip classes.
- ⇒ Be on time to class.
- ⇒ Regularly check your email and Canvas for class or assignment updates.
- ⇒ Plan plenty of time to work ahead on your assignments.
- ⇒ If you don't understand an assignment, ask your professor about it.
- ⇒ Don't wait until the last minute to study for a test.
- ⇒ Meet with your advisor every semester to discuss what classes you should be taking.
- ⇒ Don't wait until you are failing a class before you seek help.
- ⇒ Visit the LARC and meet with a tutor early in the semester, and as often as you need.

*"EDUCATION IS THE MOST POWERFUL WEAPON WHICH YOU CAN USE TO CHANGE THE WORLD."*

*~ NELSON MANDELA*

# Learning Techniques

There are many ways to learn, and each person will find that different learning styles will work better for them than others. Some people learn better visually, while others are auditory learners, and so on. It's important to experiment and know which learning style works best for you, and if you need help figuring out your learning style, stop by the LARC and ask a tutor to help you.

Regardless of what style works best for you, there are some studying techniques that apply to all students. Below are just a few of the many different techniques you can employ in your studies to help you better learn and retain information, do better on homework and tests, and help you achieve better grades.

*"WE CANNOT TEACH  
PEOPLE ANYTHING;  
WE CAN ONLY HELP THEM  
DISCOVER IT WITHIN  
THEMSELVES."  
- GALILEO GALILEI*

## The Pomodoro Method

The Pomodoro Method is a study technique that can be very helpful in keeping you focused. You set a timer for 25 minutes and in that time you remain completely focused on your learning objective and get rid of distractions such as your cellphone, Facebook, etc. Then after 25 minutes of focused learning you can reward yourself with a short break before setting the timer for another 25 minute study session. This method works best with math and science homework because it gives your mind a short break between problems. This can help you learn better in the long run and can make your homework seem less daunting. Also, this method is great if you have limited time to study.

## Highlighting & Color Coding

Highlighting and color coding your textbooks and notes can be a great help, especially for visual learners. Choosing different colors for different subjects can be very effective because it makes you associate the color of your highlighter and tabs or bookmarks and pens with that subject. Also, by choosing a specific color for a certain subject you are making a conscious choice that can further help your ability to recall information. The more conscientious you are about your studies and your studying techniques the more your mind will form neural links with the information. You can also make color coded flashcards, take notes with a different color pen for different classes, and much more.

## Pre- and Post-Notetaking

It may seem time consuming and pointless to take reading notes by reading your textbook before class each day, but in the long run it can be very effective at helping you retain the material. In this way you will already be somewhat familiar with the subject so that as your professor lectures on it you will gain a better understanding which will be invaluable on tests. It also makes taking lecture notes easier because you won't feel as rushed trying to write everything down if you already have some of it in your pre-lecture notes. Some people also find it helpful to type up or rewrite their lecture notes a day or two after the class to ensure they remember the material and have it more organized for studying for the test, mid-term, and final.

**Have Questions?**  
**Feel free to stop by the LARC  
and ask!**

**You can also contact:**

Valerie Darst, Director of the LARC  
660-263-4100 ex. 11244  
ValerieDarst@macc.edu

Jill Gosseen, LARC Coordinator  
660-263-4100 ex. 11310  
JillGosseen@macc.edu

Stacy Donald, Resource Coordinator  
660-263-4100 ex. 12116  
StacyDonald@macc.edu

To set up a virtual tutoring session, send an  
email to:  
virtuالتutor@macc.edu

## **NEW at the LARC!** **EBSCO Discovery Service (EDS)**

**EBSCO is now easier to search than ever before! EBSCO Discovery Service (EDS) provides a single point entry system which allows you to search all of the 18 EBSCO Complete databases, as well as 6 GALE databases, Films on Demand, MACC books, and eBooks all at the same time. You can still choose to search a single or specific database if you want to, but you no longer have to. EDS is an aggregated search engine for all of MACC's electronic databases.**