



ACADEMIC CENTER for EXCELLENCE MISSION STATEMENT AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Mission statement:

The Academic Center for Excellence and Disability Services exists to support and enhance the learning of students at Salve Regina University of all abilities and skill levels. Tied to the Mission Statement of Salve Regina University and to the integrated wellness model of the university, the mission of the ACE is to enhance the intellectual wellness and academic success of all Salve Regina University students through the provision of expert academic support and learning skills development. At the core of the Academic Center for Excellence's philosophy is a belief in students' ability to take charge of their own intellectual growth with the professional, caring and respectful assistance that the Center provides. All students, including students with disabilities and speakers of English as a second language, are helped to develop self-awareness and self-advocacy skills. All ACE tutors and professional staff adhere to the code of ethics of the National Association of Tutorial Services.

Guiding Principles:

The Academic Center for Excellence provides assistance to students in understanding course content and developing general study skills; provides academic English and acculturation support for non-native speakers of English; support and academic accommodations for students with disabilities; and compassionate, non-judgmental intervention and support for students at risk and on academic probation. Students are empowered to take charge of their own learning by:

- Identifying and responding to shortfalls in course mastery and academic learning as early and proactively as possible so as to maintain a high level of performance, rather than waiting until poor performance forces action;
- Understanding where skills in reading, writing, studying, test-taking or organization are in need of development and taking appropriate steps to address these issues;
- Improving non-native English speakers' command of English language as encountered and used in academic contexts, as well as improving their American cultural competency;
- Understanding the nature of a disability a student may have, and taking appropriate steps at the University to support and effectively accommodate that disability.
- Understanding and articulating where personal goals and current behaviors may be at odds, and empowering students to close the gap through empathic guidance and expert learning assistance.

At the heart of the ACE's philosophy is a belief in students' ability to own and be accountable for their own intellectual and academic growth, with the assistance that ACE's expert and compassionate guidance provides. All ACE tutors and staff adhere to the code of ethics of the National Association of Tutorial Services (adapted for Salve Regina University):

Tutor Code of Ethics:

1. Subject proficiency and knowledge are the tutor's top priority.
2. The tutor's major motivation is building students' confidence and self-efficacy about their learning.
3. Respect for students' personal dignity means that tutors work with all students without judgment or reservation.
4. Both the student and tutor understand that the tutor's role is never to do the student's work for them nor serve as a substitute for students' professors or class attendance.
5. Tutors strive to always be punctual, keep appointments, and demonstrate other professional behavior, not only out of courtesy, but as an example for their students to follow.
6. Tutors maintain session records of all tutoring appointments and progress data, as expected and required by ACE.
7. Tutors are expected to be abreast of the current state of information as it changes over time in the courses they tutor.
8. Tutors are never permitted to tutor information about which they are not themselves absolutely certain.
9. Good tutoring enables the student to transfer learning from one situation to another.
10. The ultimate tutoring goal is the student's successful independence.

Relationship to the Salve Regina University Mission Statement:

The work of the Academic Center for Excellence supports and reflects the mission of Salve Regina University in its influence on the students it serves, as well as in its impact on the student tutors and staff who are employed by it. Specifically, the Center encourages and supports students, tutors and staff alike to:

- Seek wisdom;
- Impart and expand knowledge, and develop relevant and specific skills;
- Develop the ability to think clearly and creatively;
- Enhance their capacity for sound judgment;
- Prepare for the challenge of learning throughout their lifetimes;
- Recognize and honor the worth and dignity of each individual, thereby recognizing that all people are stewards of God's creation.
- Actively participate in creating a world that is more harmonious, just and merciful.

(Adapted from the Salve Regina University Mission Statement)

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