LEARNING COMMONS

The Learning Commons is a group of academic programs that provide support to members of the Quinnipiac community. On the Mount Carmel Campus, the Learning Commons is located in the north wing of the Arnold Bernhard Library. Please call reception with questions: 203-582-8266. On the North Haven Campus, the Learning Commons is located on the second floor of the School of Law Center. Please call reception with questions: 203-582-5252. The Learning Commons offers the following support services:

Peer Academic Support
At Quinnipiac, the work a student does with his or her professor is complemented by a strong peer support system.

- A Study Table Program serves students enrolled in various 100-level courses, such as mathematics and chemistry. Held in the Common Room, a study table is a venue of support where students can drop in with questions they may have on homework or an upcoming test. Study Table peers can support both individuals and groups. Different from the more sustained individual tutorials, students visiting a study table should bring prepared questions on specific topics so that there is a focus for the visit. Study tables are also useful for guided group support when students have similar questions in the same class. Study Table schedules are posted on the Learning Commons web page and also are available at the reception desks.

- A Peer Tutoring Program, certified by the College Reading and Learning Association, provides individual tutoring for the great majority of 100-level courses, many 200- and 300-level courses and supports many of the graduate degree programs. Students meet with peer tutors on an appointment basis to address material in a specific course. Tutors also can help students improve study skills, time and task management and academic goal-setting.

- A Peer Fellow Program, developed from the supplemental instruction model by a certified coordinator, provides weekly study groups for various classes. Trained in group dynamics and Socratic questioning, Peer Fellows attend each class meeting, develop a weekly agenda with the professor, and meet with interested students to work on topics and challenges.

- The Peer Catalysts Program supports our first-year students. In our First-Year Seminars, Peer Catalysts serve as both facilitators of student learning and as observers of student behaviors and attitudes. These functions are complementary and allow PCs to be valuable resources to both students and faculty. While not teaching assistants, PCs exemplify successful student behavior, particularly the self-reflective habits of mind that correlate to intentional learning, meet with students outside of class, support students with Personal Success Plans, registration for spring classes, and facilitate students’ out-of-class experiences related to the First-Year Seminar.

- Peer Advisers are trained to help students with pre-advising needs. These include support with the Personal Success Plan, as well as access to and help with students’ program assessments and other information necessary for an informed meeting with one’s academic adviser. Successful students themselves, our Peer Advisers can help students navigate the various resources of the Quinnipiac community.

Support for Students with Disabilities
The Office of Student Accessibility (OSA), located in the Learning Commons on both campuses, provides students with disabilities equal access to all university activities and programs. The office is led by a director supported by learning services coordinators. Working collaboratively with all university departments to engage and support the intellectual and social development of students with disabilities, the Office of Student Accessibility employs policies that promote academic excellence and the development of self-advocacy skills. Accommodations are provided based on submission of appropriate documentation, which is reviewed by the OSA staff in compliance with university policy, section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Questions and requests can be directed to access@qu.edu or 203-582-7600. More information, including our Accommodation Request Form, can be found on our website.

Opportunities for Students who come to English as a Foreign Language
Many of Quinnipiac’s students bring with them another language, one in which they have been doing the bulk of their thinking and learning. In their journey to master academic English, we offer individual tutoring. Students work with a professional tutor who in turn communicates with students’ advisers and professors. Students can work individually or in groups on writing, speaking, conversation and other aspects of academic English.

Professional Academic Support
Students can work with one of our learning specialists to address their academic goals and challenges. Working closely with students’ professors and other support staff, Quinnipiac’s academic specialists provide students with opportunities to improve their academic choices. Students can develop an improvement plan, work on problem solving, discuss new learning strategies, and many other topics necessary to students embracing academic challenge. Our academic specialists also work with students who have been referred to our services by their faculty through Quinnipiac’s Retention Alert program. This program helps direct individual students to appropriate academic support during the semester and facilitates dialogue among those working to support the student. Academic specialists also work with faculty to bring learning skills into the classroom.