

Responses received to date on the following inquiry sent to the list serve: "I have been asked by one of the faculty representatives on our Retention Committee to request information regarding programs or services you have that relate to or address "academic survival skills" for your students. "

John Letts, Vice President for Student Services, John Wood Community College

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**Moraine Valley Community College**  
**Nancy Bentley**

Academic Survival Skills Support at MVCC:

First Year Experience Program:

- Mandatory basic skills assessment in reading, writing and mathematics for all FT students and PT students after they complete 12 hours or if they want to enroll in English or math classes
- Mandatory entry level course placement dictated by basic skills assessment
- Student Success course (COL 101) - 1-credit hour course for new students (required of all new FT, first-time students) with Educational Planning Session included
- New Student Orientation Program – half day (required of all new FT, first-time students) and includes advising and registration sessions; computer stops new students from registering FT until participates in new student orientation
- Parent Orientation for new students

Other initiatives and services:

- Free tutoring and writing center
- Study Skills Strategy workshops
- Career/major, personal and academic success workshops by counselors
- Major and transfer planning workshops by advisors and counselors
- Student life programming linked to classes and other departments to increase number of students who attend and many programs related to student success and retention
- Student Leadership Workshops focused on developing life skills, making decisions, time management, etc.
- Student Life Center sponsors study night (with food) for finals week
- Extensive Celebrating Diversity programs for students, faculty and staff
- Computer, Science and Nursing labs - to assist students with questions and assignments
- Access to computer labs, cyber cafes and wireless throughout the campus
- Early Warning Program for students who are not performing well in their classes
- Financial aid awareness initiatives
- Athlete Success Program – major focus on academics with study hall and special advisor for athletes, character building program where second year students mentor first year athletes
- Have 3 DOE RIO Grant Programs – Student Support Services, Educational Talent Search and Upward Bound – first generation, low income current students and prospective students
- Support services to special populations through Multicultural Affairs Program, English as a Second Language Support Services, International Student Affairs, Disability Services, Returning Women's Program, CRCP program for UPS employee-students
- Learning Dialogues for staff on student learning, student development and student success
- Vanguard Learning College Initiative started in 2000 and is an integral part of the college culture – are goal is to become not only a student-centered and learner-centered but a learning-centered college
- Have created welcoming and stimulating places and environments on campus that will engage students and encourage them to get involved and/or want to stay, talk and study with other students in each building, hallway and outdoors
- "What All Student Service Providers Need to Know" – on line document for all staff who respond to student inquiries – core body of knowledge that all should know to assist students,

- respond to questions, appropriate referrals, and elimination of unnecessary of sending/transferring of students to other offices; training provided to all staff each term
- Student Milestone Approach – the student success model we use with all process improvement efforts, development of our annual planning objectives and annual assessment plans throughout the division
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**Kankakee Community College**  
**Julia Waskosky**

Kankakee Community College offers the following services and programs to address academic survival skills:

- \*Orientation to KCC for all incoming first-time, full-time students.
- \*Mandatory placement for reading, writing, and math courses.
- \*Prerequisite checks for a deregistration process.
- \*Early Alert for students who are at risk of failing a course; optional student/faculty participation.
- \*Extended Early Alert for gate-keeper courses (basic algebra and English 1413) required participation for all faculty, optional student participation.
- \*Free face-to-face and online tutoring services.
- \*Reading, study skills, and test-taking strategies for all courses by faculty request.
- \*College Success Skills course optional for all new students; required for TRiO SSS and health careers students.
- \*Extension sites for GED, registration, credit courses.
- \*Online and face-to-face FAFSA workshops for parents and students.
- \*Online registration for students who have met prerequisites.
- \*Assigned advisers for students enrolling in health careers, occupational programs and transfer programs.
- \*Walk-in advising for basic registration needs.
- \*Dual credit, face-to-face, hybrid, online course options.
- \*CART - Cavaliers are readers too program; athletes read books to elementary school-aged students.
- \*Community outreach programs for Latino/Hispanic and African-American communities.
- \*Cultural Diversity Committee efforts to improve awareness, experiences, and curriculum.

Let me know if more information is needed.

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**South Suburban College**  
**Songie Milhouse**

Academic Survival Skill Sessions are (non credit) sponsored by the Academic Assistance Center.

There are two categories of these sessions:

1. Category one is a general knowledge of study strategies.
  - a. Topics of how to study & take effective notes, how to develop study skills.
  - b. How to effectively manage stress, how to manage your time, and how to prepare final exams are included.
2. Category two is subject specific areas that target the difficult subjects.
  - a. Topics of how to study Biology, how to write an essay or research paper, how to solve quadratic equations, and how to factor polynomials are included.
  - b. How to learn computers

Presenters are experts in the topic they deliver- either counselors or instructors.

We also have the following credit courses:

- **OCS 121—Overview for College Success (1,1)**  
**A college transfer course; consult the Transfer Center for more details.**  
*Prerequisite: Testing and orientation*  
 This course covers the skills for college success and includes extensive help in course planning. The student's master academic plan will be completed as a requirement. The course may be used for elective credit and is a requirement for full-time transfer students.
- **SSK 100—Study Skills (1,1)**  
 An eight-week course for students with academic deficiencies or who need review of study skills (note taking, reading comprehension, how to take examinations, study habits, etc.)

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**Morton College**  
**Sandy Saldana**

Morton College responses are below.

- Successful Studies Course, 3 credits
- Student orientations, both for current and new students (not mandatory, but attendance continues to slowly rise)
- Student Success Workshop series-Topics vary each semester with some commons ones such as understanding college life and expectations, text anxiety, study skills, soft skills employability topics, editing essays, how to use citations/MLA format for papers, how to schedule semester classes, understanding transcripts, and others
- Required math and English placement testing prior to entry into any math or English course
- Early Alert/Student Success Intervention Program
- Student Athlete early alert program similar to above
- Late night study nights, especially around midterm and finals
- Facilitated group study sessions and rooms

- Required selective admissions orientation programs, i.e., nursing, PTA, AE
- Individual Learning Center one-on-one and group tutoring
- 8000 sf Student Success Center housing student support services in one place
- Parent and student entrance orientations
- Pre-advising system at all on-campus recruitment events
- Advising restrictions limiting registration until student on AW/AP/AS or financial aid AW/AS meet with advisor
- Advising restrictions if student places into dev ed math or English
- IEP for special needs, transfer and AE students
- High school counselor/MC advisor quarterly meetings addressing needs of students before MC entry
- Dual credit orientation for high school teachers, students and parents
- Student contract for GED, pre-GED and ESL students
- Access to wireless library, wireless study rooms and dedicated databases
- Access to five all new computer laboratories used across disciplines
- Community wide and campus wide financial aid awareness days
- Online and face-to-face FAFSA workshops for parents and students
- MAP Morton Ambassador Program; volunteer program with possible lead into campus employment
- Satellite office of IETC housed in SSC
- CRCP tuition reimbursement/work program
- UPS tuition reimbursement/work program
- All night and midnight registration events allowing students to complete all enrollment services at the same time
- Construction of One-Stop student services area
- Cross-training and development of generalist student services positions allowing for more pre-advising during peak registration times
- Learning Community cohorts through Title V, recruitment events and selective admissions programs
- Peer mentors through Title V Co-op grant
- Project CARE adult volunteer literacy tutoring program
- Academic program study group/nights facilitated through student services clubs

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**Rock Valley College**  
**Amy S. Diaz**

Academic Survival Skills Support at Rock Valley College:

- Mandatory basic skills assessment in reading, writing and mathematics
- Mandatory entry level course placement dictated by basic skills assessment
- Educational Planning Session: 1 ½ hour workshop focusing on language and processes of the college is mandated for all new students
- Orientation to College 1-credit hour course for new students (expected, not mandated)
- New Student and Parent Orientation events
- Course registration stops due to pre-requisite checking
- Individual assessments that direct student's career/major choice
- Search techniques to identify appropriate transfer institution and scholarship opportunities

- Peer tutoring
- Study Skills Strategy workshops
- Math lab facilitated by math faculty
- Access to computer labs
- Early Warning Program for courses with high attrition
- Financial aid awareness initiatives
- Athlete Success Program
- Multi-cultural Achievement Program

If further information for any of these programs is desired, please contact Diane Kuehl (contact information below).

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**Joliet Junior College**  
**Betsy Oudenhoven**

## Academic Survival Skills

<i>Program/Service</i>	<i>Description</i>
<b>Project Achieve</b>	<p>Project Achieve is a student support services program dedicated to enhancing the college experience for low-income, first-generation, or disabled college students. Eligible students have access to counseling, free professional tutoring in English, Math and Computer Science, and multicultural events offered in a friendly, supportive atmosphere. Project Achieve is a federally funded TRIO program so it is available to members at no cost.</p> <p>Project Achieve offers services that increase the retention and graduation rates for students, facilitate transfers to four-year institutions, and foster an institutional climate that supports students and promotes diversity.</p> <p>Any JJC student who wants to earn a degree and who can meet one of the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Parents have not graduated from a four-year institution</li> <li>◆ Financial aid or low income</li> <li>◆ Disability</li> </ul> <p><i>JJC students are members of Project Achieve for as long as they are enrolled at the college.</i></p> <p>Services offered are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Workshops</li> <li>◆ Four-year college visits</li> <li>◆ Personality and career testing</li> <li>◆ Tutoring</li> </ul>

<b>Program/Service</b>	<b>Description</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Academic counseling and transfer support</li> <li>◆ Career exploration/workshops</li> </ul>
<p>GSD 110, Orientation to the College Experience</p> <p>GSD 110 (con't)</p>	<p>GSD 100, Orientation to the College Experience, covers many college survival skills. It is an orientation course to facilitate the student's transition to college. There are "hard" topics such as note taking and memory enhancement, and there are "soft" skills such as effective communication and diversity issues. Chapter topics are as follows:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Chapter 1: Getting Off to A Great Start (College layout and resources)</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Chapter 2: Prioritizing Your Time To Match Your Goals (Time management)</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Chapter 3: Becoming A Better Notetaker</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Chapter 4: How To Study (Study methods such as SQ4R)</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Chapter 5: Your Memory At Work (Memory enhancement)</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Chapter 6: Taking Tests With Confidence (Test taking strategies)</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Chapter 7: Achieving Your Personal Best (Self esteem and self-defeating behaviors)</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Chapter 8: Your Future At JJC And Beyond (Planning for next semester and transfer information)</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Chapter 9: Understanding The Way You Learn (Learning styles)</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Chapter 10: Skills To Enhance Communication And Relationship (Effective communication)</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Chapter 11: Managing The Stress Of Life As A College Student (Stress and test anxiety)</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Chapter 12: Living In A World Of Diversity ( JJC is a diverse environment)</p>
<p>Centennial Common's Orientation</p>	<p>This is a mandatory three hour orientation for students that live in Centennial Commons, Joliet Junior College's student residential facility. This orientation includes topics such as: <i>Academic Standards and being a Successful College Student, Understanding Behavior Expectations, Eating on a Shoestring and Community Policies.</i></p>
<p>Project Success</p>	<p><b>Project Success</b> is a program coordinated by the Counseling Department that gives high school seniors an opportunity to apply for early admission to Joliet Junior College, enroll in GSD 100 (Orientation to the College Experience) and earn college credit. Each year, 2-25 students are selected to participate in this program.</p> <p>This innovative program is geared for first-generation minority college students who are unfamiliar with the overall college process, but who have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale, have taken college preparatory classes (including at least two years of algebra) and possess the desire and motivation to continue on with a college education. This program will assist students in experiencing a smooth transition from high school to college.</p> <p>Project Success students must agree to be active participants in program-sponsored and supportive activities. These activities are designed to help students achieve college success and prevent increase of number of minority students that experience academic failure during their first year of college.</p> <p>Students overall academic progress will be followed while they attend classes at JJC. Students and their parent(s) must attend an initial orientation session and sign our participation agreement form. Benefits of this project include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Early admissions to JJC</i></li> </ul>

<b>Program/Service</b>	<b>Description</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Free tuition for GSD 100 class</i></li> <li>• <i>Assistance with completing FAFSA (Federal financial aid form)</i></li> <li>• <i>An assigned mentor who follows their progress</i></li> <li>• <i>Referral to other JJC programs that provide tutoring and support</i></li> <li>• <i>Early registration for Summer and Fall classes</i></li> <li>• <i>Educational trips and Leadership development opportunities</i></li> </ul> <p>Since the program started in 2001, 30 students have completed degrees and certificates. Many of those students have now completed, or are working towards, bachelor's degrees. An additional 7 students will be graduating this December (with Associates degrees). The project retention rate is 50 to 60 percent each year.</p>
<b>Academic Monitoring/Interventions</b>	<p>Our Coordinator of Judicial Affairs and Residence Life conducts academic monitoring and interventions for Centennial Commons residents.</p>
<b>Holistic Wellness</b>	<p>Holistic Wellness assists students in striving for healthy, safe, and productive lives. The program helps individuals to increase knowledge and develop strategies to enhance physical, emotional, social, intellectual, occupational, environmental, nutritional, and spiritual wellness. Campus events sponsored by Holistic Wellness include: Alcohol Awareness, Stress Management, Monthly Themes, Support Groups (parenting, eating disorders, etc.) These programs are great at educating students on reducing risky behaviors.</p>
<b>Student Clubs</b>	<p>Student Clubs are an important way of retaining students at Joliet Junior College. The club connects them to JJC in a way other than their classes. At JJC, there are Honorary Societies, Multicultural Societies, Political Groups, Professional Groups, Recreational Groups, Social Interest Groups, Spiritual Groups, and other Extracurricular Activities.</p>
<b>Student Accommodations and Resources (StAR)</b>	<p>Student Accommodations and Resources (StAR) provides extensive support to the following special populations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• students with disabilities</li> <li>• students with limited English proficiency</li> <li>• non-traditional students (women in technology, men in nursing)</li> <li>• students in career and technical programs who are below "C" level in their career or technical classes.</li> </ul> <p>The department provides intensive support through tutoring, assistive technology, and accommodations according to their individual needs. Support is offered for these students on an individual basis in the area of orientation to the StAR program, study skills, and coping with anxiety. The coordinator of the program designs an individual plan to suit the needs of each individual, and offers assistance by means of advising students about the classes they should take for upcoming semesters.</p>
<b>Academic Skills Center (ASC)</b>	<p>Academic Skills provides extensive student support to students within the college by offering testing services (Compass, CLEP, and classroom make up testing). In addition, this department offers extensive tutoring to the college population, either through supplementary tutoring (professors or majors in the field), or through peer tutoring. ASC also provides lab opportunities for studying the bones of the body and lab slides for the Biology/Nursing students.</p>

