

## **2016 – 2017 Student Technology Fee Proposal**

### *Expanding Academic Center for Excellence Academic Support Through Implementation of Live Streaming and Video Recording*

#### **Background**

The Academic Center for Excellence (hereafter referred to as ACE) functions as one of the primary learning centers on Florida State University's campus and offers a variety of free academic support services to students. Included in those services are a number of group tutoring sessions led by ACE undergraduate tutors as well as academic workshops led by teaching faculty. Our group tutoring sessions cover a wide variety of courses and our ACE faculty facilitate 6 academic workshops each semester. Over 3,600 FSU students have utilized these two distinct academic support services during Summer 2015 through Spring 2016 semesters; over 3,400 students participated in group tutoring sessions and over 270 students participated in our academic workshops.

We are seeking funding for live streaming and video recording equipment to be used for our group tutoring sessions and academic workshops. With your funding support, we will be able to provide greater access to our services for all undergraduate students as opposed to limiting our free academic support to face-to-face synchronous services. Funding for live streaming and video recording will directly benefit students who attend our group tutoring sessions which are constrained by the number of seats available in the classrooms at the William Johnston Building. The two largest classrooms that ACE oversees can hold approximately 30 students, while larger group tutoring sessions require utilization of rooms managed by the Art History department (WJB G040; seating 99 students) and the Registrar's office (WJB G039; seating 45 students). Requesting rooms G039 and G040, managed by other departments, requires working around the availability of other departments potentially leading to no viable options to accommodate larger sessions. These larger rooms are at times still not big enough to accommodate the number of students who wish to attend the session. Moreover, each of our group tutoring sessions are led by a nationally certified, trained, undergraduate tutor and the time of the group tutoring sessions is dictated by the tutor's work hours. Thus, FSU students may not be able to attend group a tutoring session simply because it poses a schedule conflict. Finally, not all students will have the ability or desire to come to campus to attend group tutoring sessions in person.

Furthermore, if our request for funds is approved, our teaching faculty could live stream and video record our academic workshops that can be widely viewed by many more students than our current outreach of approximately 270 as reported during Summer 2015 through Spring 2016 semesters.

#### **Project Description**

To remedy the issues listed above, we request your funding support to implement live streaming video services. We are asking for the funds to purchase two camcorders, two tripods, four wireless lavalier microphones, two external capture devices, a monthly license for live streaming

software, and a one-time license for production software required to broadcast. This will enable us to properly capture each session and/or academic workshop and provide wide access to FSU students who may view the live stream and/or posted pre-recorded videos. After this equipment and software is purchased, ACE faculty, staff and undergraduate tutors will be trained on how to utilize the equipment. FSU students will then be able to watch a live stream of the session from their own residence hall room and/or access the prerecorded videos at a later date directly from ACE’s website. During the live streaming of group tutoring sessions or academic workshops, students will also be able to ask questions in real time through the chat feature of the software. All of this technological advancement combined provides a valuable experience to many more FSU students.

### Project Impact

#### OBJECTIVE 1: Expand Student Participation

ACE hosts group tutoring sessions in different subjects including, Accounting, Biology, Chemistry, and Math (9 different math courses). This means that a wide variety of students from academic departments across the university will benefit from this technology upgrade. The table below depicts student attendance at our group tutoring sessions over five semesters. Participation in group sessions has continually increased over the past two and a half years, and we expect this trend to continue. We are limited in our outreach to students due to our classroom seat capacity and lack of live streaming and video recording capabilities. Students have been turned away from group tutoring sessions due to our classroom seating capacity and therefore students who are not able to attend our group tutoring sessions do not receive the academic support they need to prepare for tests and final exams.

Semester	<i>Fall 2014</i>	<i>Spring 2015</i>	<i>Fall 2015</i>	<i>Spring 2016</i>	<i>Fall 2016</i>
<b>Total Group Session Attendance</b>	660	696	851	1727	1090*

\*As of 11/29/16

The overall impact and access to students can also be seen in the table below. The table illustrates a sample of group tutoring sessions offered regularly throughout this current Fall 2016 semester as well as the limitation of seat capacity due to our physical location. The third column in the table illustrates the student enrollment in each course. Giving all enrolled students free access to the live streaming and/or prerecorded video sessions to prepare for tests and final exams has the potential to exponentially increase student participation in these tutoring services.

<b>Fall 2016 Sample of Group Tutoring Sessions Offered</b>	<b>Maximum Seat Capacity Due to Space Limitation</b>	<b>Fall 2016 Student Enrollment Per Course</b>
ACG2021 – Financial Accounting	30	988
ACG2071 – Managerial Accounting	50	1,018
BSC1005 – General Biology	30	1,175
BSC2010 – Biology I	30	1,169
CHM1045 – General Chemistry I	30	1,327
CHM2210 – Organic Chemistry I	30	629
ECO2023 – Microeconomics	30	1,321
MAC1105 – College Algebra	80	1,720
MAC2233 – Business Calculus	80	396
MAC2311 – Calculus I	30	680
PHY2048C – General Physics A	30	302
STA2122 – Applied Statistics	30	1,070

**OBJECTIVE II: Expand Access Around Student Schedule Constraints**

As mentioned before, the timing of the group sessions is dependent upon what tutors are available to lead group sessions during their scheduled work hours. With the video recording feature for both group sessions and academic workshops, the limited access to students dependent upon their availability will be removed. Students will be able to watch the videos of any session or workshop any time (and multiple times) from the ACE website. If we are provided the funding for this technology upgrade, students will have the flexibility to view the sessions or workshops on their own time and/or chat with tutors and faculty to resolve their questions about course content or academic strategies.

**OBJECTIVE III: Expand Access From Anywhere Students Have Internet Access**

Some students have difficulty getting to campus to attend sessions or workshops in person. Students may be limited to be on campus during scheduled sessions or workshops due to course scheduling, lack of transportation, long commute time, or a variety of other reasons. Live streaming and video recording resolves these issues by bringing the sessions to the students no matter what their barriers may be. This 24/7 access may prove especially beneficial to non-traditional students who are balancing various other demands in addition to their academics.

**Project Plan**

<b>Step</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Estimated Start Date</b>
1	Purchase Equipment/Licenses	Summer 2017
2	Train Staff and Tutors on Equipment and Software Use	August 2017
3	Begin Utilizing in Group Sessions	September 2017

Purchasing of equipment will take place as soon as funds are received while the purchasing of the license will take place the month before group tutoring sessions start as the service is contracted on a monthly basis. The goal is to be utilizing these new services by the first group tutoring session and academic workshop in September. ACE faculty and staff training would be conducted throughout the summer term.

### **Relationship to Other University Activities**

ACE's mission is "to help the diverse population of undergraduate students at Florida State University develop the study skills and personal success habits that enhance learning and encourage the highest level of scholarship and academic achievement. We are committed to working with the university community to promote a culture of academic success, with the shared mission of helping students earn a college degree and develop effective lifelong learning skills." This technology upgrade will aid in our mission by promoting academic success for thousands of students each semester.

In addition to ACE's mission, this proposal supports critical goals outlined in Florida State University's new strategic plan for 2017 – 2022. Specifically, this proposal supports Goal II, "Amplifying Excellence Across our Academic and Research Programs" and sub-goal "Expand Innovative Teaching Strategies." The courses selected for group tutoring sessions are typically gateway courses for STEM and other majors. ACE would also be providing services to students that would include technology-assisted learning as well as online collaboration. Live streaming and video recording utilize mediums of technology that are interwoven into the daily lives of students. This increased focus on implementing these technologies to improve accessibility of educational resources for students will serve to improve the learning experience of all those who engage with the services.

### **Cost of Support**

The costs for maintaining the three-year license for the live streaming service and purchasing the appropriate equipment to expand our outreach to students are included in the budget attached; our **total request** for funding support is **\$7,213.02**. ACE will also collect user analytics over the three-year license as a way to measure student participation and therefore allow ACE to make an informed decision whether to extend the service past the three years initially supported by the funding provided by the technology committee.

There will be no additional staffing support costs for this project as the ACE Learning Studio staff will be handling the uploading and streaming of footage as well as the maintenance and care of all equipment involved.

### Project Team

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>
Dr. Courtney Barry	Director, Academic Center for Excellence
Andrew Dentzau	Tutoring Program Coordinator
Connor Jones	Graduate Assistant, ACE Learning Studio

This project team will ensure that the new live streaming and video recording services are implemented correctly and effectively to ensure maximum benefit to students. This team will also assess outcomes and adjust for any changes necessary so that the project will continue to be a worthwhile endeavor and a true enhancement of instructional technology for the university at large.