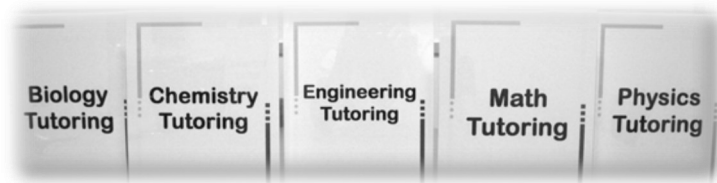


TUTORING, WORKSHOPS & STUDY GROUPS



TUTORING

Tutorial support is available from faculty and peer tutors in the MESA Student Study Center. These tutors are available on a drop in basis and help students with biology, engineering, computer science, chemistry, math and physics. Students seeking tutorial assistance may approach any available faculty or peer tutor. They can be recognized sitting by the vertical tutorial signs located on the study tables. A current tutorial schedule is available at the front desk and online at the MESA website.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE WORKSHOPS (AEW)

The MESA Academic Excellence Workshops (AEW) are the cornerstone of MESA's success at helping students develop the skills they need to succeed in science and mathematics courses at COC and their transfer school. The AEW are weekly gatherings, workshops, in which a small community of MESA students work together to master course material with the guidance of a trained facilitator. Each workshop provides opportunities for students to interact with course material and learn successful study strategies and test-taking skills. The workshops are designed to stretch each student's capabilities, allowing them to approach new material with greater confidence and success.

Students in the workshops encounter a variety of timely problems, sample exam questions and review worksheets. These activities help students to become "street smart" with respect to content in the more challenging courses in the mathematics and science disciplines. During the workshops students are exposed to different perspectives and approaches to as they work collaboratively to solve different problems. They also develop valuable self-assessment skills and have opportunities for "output" like that required on course exams.

The MESA AEW program has been very successful. We have shown that students who participate in the workshops score higher on exams and quizzes than their classmates who do not participate. In Calculus I, AEW students finished the semester with a 93% final course average. In the same course students who did not participate in the AEW averaged 79%. In General Chemistry 201, AEW students averaged 20% higher on the final exam than students who did not participate in the AEW. The AEW program works!

MESA usually offers AEW for the calculus series, general chemistry and/or physics. The workshop details are published each semester along with the tutorial schedule. Each workshop is approximately 1.5 hours two times a week.