

Learning Lab Newsletter

Tutor Spotlight

By Roosevelt Belton Jr.

This semester, the Tutor Spotlight focuses on recent HFC graduate and former Learning Lab Peer Tutor, Amin Dabajeh. Amin served in the Learning Lab from January 2017 to August 2019, completing 1,608 hours of tutoring over 11 semesters, earning Student of the Month honors in May 2017. For Amin, tutoring and helping others with their assignments was always something that interested him. “I would always help friends and my anatomy professor would always see that I did that effectively,” he says. “That influenced me to see that maybe I should try this out.”

As to what made him an effective tutor, Amin cites his willingness to consider student feedback and constantly adapt his teaching methods. “Their feedback helps me to think ‘Okay this is how I’m going to teach from now on because a lot of students get it this way, ’” he says. “And if I have to modify it, then it’s the student feedback that makes sure that I do that.”

Since graduating, Amin has moved on to becoming a professional tutor for HFC’s Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) program. “A lot of the stuff that I did here with anatomy relates to PTA. So, I’m just carrying what I did from here and applying it there,” he says.

For any students seeking to become or improve their skills as a tutor, Amin recommends that it’s important for tutors to remember how they initially learned certain concepts. “Just go back to what made you get it,” he says. “If this is how I came to learn it, maybe others will benefit from this way too. And if not, then you also have to be good at adapting, because not everybody will learn in the same way you did.”

Athletics Partnership

By Jill Sestok

Swish! Serving up a home run pins a win for the academic season! Academics can put you through the paces. In the Learning Lab, it doesn't matter where you are on your academic journey. Resources and services are available not costing you anything other than giving us the courtesy to confirm you are currently enrolled, by sharing your HFC student ID.

Partnering with Director Rochelle Taylor and Assistant Athletic Director Steven Brown’s leadership allows us to get Hawks soaring higher. Participating in student athlete orientation, communicating with coaches, and teaming up with student athletes with the most excellent service has taken our team to the next level. Yousuf Farhat (HFC basketball) says “The Learning Lab has provided me many opportunities to seek assistance in specific subjects I was struggling with and helped me grow as a student.” Thanks to Coach Christopher Shepherd for making this a priority for the entire team.

Architecture & Interior Design Add Tutoring

By Roosevelt Belton Jr.

This semester, in conjunction with the Learning Lab, both the Architecture and Interior Design programs at HFC will now offer in-house tutoring for students in their programs. Both Chad Richert and Karen Wilmering, faculty leads for Architecture and Interior Design respectively, noted the need for extra assistance outside of class time as reasons for the recent push to incorporate tutoring. “It’s nice when they get together with other students,” Wilmering says, “but sometimes, especially for intro students, there may be questions their classmates may not be able to answer.”

Richert notes that given the specialized nature of architecture, it’s beneficial to have experienced and on-campus support for the program. “It’s been great that the Learning Lab is facilitating us to use our lab times for tutoring,” says Richert, “because outside of the two full-time faculty there really aren’t a lot of other resources for students.” When asked how they would like to see their tutoring programs expand in the future, both cited the need for an expansion in lab time availability for students.” Ideally I’d like to have one giant lab for all of our students,” Wilmering says. Richert notes further that “for me expansion is just that we’re meeting student’s needs. We’re getting to them when they need help, not when it’s convenient for us.”

Accounting Entering New Space

By Roosevelt Belton Jr.

Beginning Fall 2019, all tutoring for Accounting courses will move from the Learning Lab and be conducted in room E-137 located within the Technology Building (Building E). With this move, the Accounting program is seeking to provide students with more specialized one-on-one instruction. Chardin Claybourne, Faculty Lead of the Learning Lab, notes that this move is a collaborative effort between both departments. “Eliminating barriers to student success and finding efficient pathways to deliver support to students...is a primary goal of our department,” Claybourne said.

Patricia Little, lead faculty in the Accounting program, notes that while there hasn’t been a growth in students who want to be accountants “there has been a growth in students that need to take accounting courses.” Little noticed that students who are not used to the accounting curriculum can often struggle with the subject matter. In response, the Accounting program has made significant developments over the years to make courses “more accessible to everyone but not necessarily easier,” says Little.

Many of these changes have involved significant upgrades to the Accounting Department’s computer labs. Little notes that an influx of computer-based support allows professors to lecture and students to work out problems in real-time. “You don’t learn accounting or any subject by somebody talking to you,” says Little. “You learn by doing it.”

With Accounting having their tutoring and computer labs in one building, Little noticed office hours for herself and other faculty became more convenient for students to attend. “I spend a lot more time with students when I’m where the students are,” Little says.