



# Learning Support Services Developmental Ed Dispatch

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## New Location, Same Mission— Still Here to Serve You & Your Students!

Until this summer, the Writing Center and the Learning Center resided under the common moniker “Learning Support Services,” but we maintained different premises. Although our student services haven’t changed, we are happy to announce that our location has been consolidated. We all live happily together on the second floor of Alumni Hall now!

As before, we are dedicated to providing free tutoring to students. Students receive **peer tutoring** for specific 100-level courses and/or individualized tutoring in writing, reading and study skills for students at all levels by **professional tutoring staff**. Our services are available on a first come, first served

basis, and hundreds of students access our services each year.

Why should you recommend that your students avail themselves of our services?

- We help students identify areas of academic difficulty and find personalized strategies to overcome these problems.
- We work with numerous students who struggle with reading comprehension. This problem is faced not just by freshmen, but frequently by transfers and upper-classmen.
- We coach students through developmental gaps with the use of proven strategies. For example, a student who receives writing

tutoring will be guided through the process of writing his or her paper from beginning to end through the use of Socratic questioning.

- We teach specific strategies for dealing with test anxiety and stress management.
- When we work with a student, we set up appointments through the entire semester in order to build a **consistent working relationship**. We do not simply proofread for students or coach them for one test and send them on their way.

So as you’re working with students this semester, please remember that we’re here to support you.

## Please recommend your exceptional students as tutors!

Learning Support Services offers students **free** tutoring in most 100-level courses. We hire (at \$5.50/hour) exemplary students who come

with faculty recommendations to tutor students one-on-one.

Please direct your students who have your recommendation (and a B+ or better in

your course) to contact Mary Dorn at 436-3010 or at [LSS@oneonta.edu](mailto:LSS@oneonta.edu).

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### UPCOMING DATES FOR THE COLLEGE WRITING EXAM

September 10  
 September 24  
 October 15  
 October 29  
 November 19  
 December 10  
 All exams will be held from 3:00-6:00 p.m. in IRC I

Students are encouraged to take the CWE after the second semester of their sophomore year.

Have students visit our website [www.oneonta.edu/academics/lss/](http://www.oneonta.edu/academics/lss/) for more information and to



## Retired Faculty Member Volunteers

Steve Berman taught science at SUNY Oneonta for many years before retiring last winter. During his final sabbatical a few semesters ago, Dr. Berman offered his services to tutor a student or two through the Learning Center. He was looking for a way to give back to the college commu-

nity while he was on leave, but what he found was that he really, really enjoyed working one-on-one with students.

When he retired last year, Dr. Berman continued his service to the Learning Center by tutoring students in disciplines related to science.

If you see Dr. Berman around campus, ask him about

his experiences as a tutor. He highly recommends that other faculty serve as tutors because of the perspective on student learning that the experience has afforded him.

We are extremely fortunate to have Steve Berman's support and friendship.

**NB: Learning Support Services is not Student Disability Services. If you have a student who has a registered disability, you will work with Student Disability Services to provide the accommodations the student requires. That office can be reached at 436-2137.**

## Developmental Education Philosophy

Learning Support Services (LSS) provides tutoring, but it also provides basic reading, writing and math courses for students who are not completely prepared for the rigors of college work. Once called *remedial*, the courses we offer now follow the model of developmental education. The difference is in pedagogical approach, not just in name.

All students have strengths and weaknesses, as we all know. But beyond mere subject-area weaknesses, most students — even extremely competent ones — reach points in their development when the task placed before them is beyond their reach. Often, the reason is lack of prior preparation for that specific task. Russian educational theorist Lev Vygotsky called that which is just beyond the reach of a learner the “zone of proximal development.” Our goal is to provide

support for learners at their own pace as they work with the concepts or skills within that zone until they have achieved mastery.

The students who come through the developmental program are usually indistinguishable from other students you teach. Students who come to college under-prepared are typically *near* the same developmental level as their peers and simply need assistance to bridge the gap. LSS provides that assistance. Moreover, when students come to us seeking help, they typically dedicate a great deal more time and effort than their peers to utilize the help we provide.

The National Association of Developmental Educators' goals, outlined below, are reflected in the courses we teach and the ways in which we manage our centers:

- To preserve and make possible educational opportunity for each post-secondary learner.
- To develop in each

learner the skills and attitudes necessary for the attainment of academic, career, and life goals.

- To ensure proper placement by assessing each learner's level of preparedness for college coursework.
- To maintain academic standards by enabling learners to acquire competencies needed for success in mainstream college courses.
- To enhance the retention of students.
- To promote the continued development and application of cognitive and affective learning theory.

Students experience developmental gaps at all points of their academic careers. Whether the student is a freshman or junior, it is our mission to provide the necessary assistance when that gap occurs.

Students can now sign up for subject area tutoring at our website!

[www.oneonta.edu/academics/LSS](http://www.oneonta.edu/academics/LSS)

