

Joceline Boucher: Welcome to this short video on academic support at Maine Maritime Academy. I'm Joceline Boucher and I direct the Academy's Accessibility Services department, which is located at the Center for Student Success. My contact information is on this slide and also on the last slide. If you'd like to reach out to me, I'd be glad to answer your general questions about academics or things that perhaps are on your mind and that I don't answer today, so please do get in touch with me.

Joceline Boucher: The Center for Student Success is a beautiful little white house on Pleasant Street, which is a street that students frequently go up and down on their way to classes and this center sees all kinds of traffic during the day. People come in for variety of reasons, so it's a vibrant place; maybe a little less so during COVID times, but it certainly will return to that in the fall by the time you would come to school here.

Joceline Boucher: We direct a number of programs. I think one of our flagship programs, if you will, is the drop-in help sessions we have. We have several ongoing, usually Monday through Thursdays, typically in the afternoon or the evening. For example, the math and physics lab is open this semester from 3:30 to 9 pm Monday through Thursday and the other centers are open similar amounts of time. The beauty of these help sessions is that there are no appointments -- that you don't have to make an appointment, you just can come in to do homework. Or you can come in specifically to get help with certain problems, or to get generalized tutoring in a subject that you may not be very good at, or that you need some extra help with. They are staffed by students; some of our best tutors are employed in these sessions and best in the sense that they've taught or tutored for many semesters and they are very experienced at how to explain things from a variety of different ways. So, not only do we have math and physics, but we have nautical science and navigation subjects and a Writing Center. In fact, the students who staff the Writing Center have taken a semester long course. Not only are they good writers, but they have learned to explain the writing process to others and to help people to improve their writing.

We also have individualized peer tutoring primarily for those subjects that are not in those drop in sessions but also, you know, on an as-needed basis, and we will find tutors for students. That typically consists of up to two hours per week per subject matter. And if they need a little bit more time than that, that's generally not a problem. The tutors are paid for their work by the Academy, and so it's essentially a free service to the students requesting tutors.

We also have, typically for new students -- I'm glad to match up students to peer mentor-tutors -- people who are good with their academics, good with organizational skills, who might be able to mentor new students coming in. Sometimes those organizational skills are rusty or are not well developed in new students and that could be something that you would be interested in having and again those students would get paid for their work by the Academy, so that would also be a free service.

We also do accommodations for disabilities and we run a testing center for students with testing accommodations. If you're interested in that, please see my companion video.

Joceline Boucher: The other academic supports that the Academy offers... certainly consist of instructor office hours. I would say that's the first thing that any students should turn to regardless of where they're at in college. And we have them conveniently located -- the schedule of hours for each faculty member is on the directory -- on the Maine Maritime portal. It's also on the course syllabus and the instructors mention their office hours to students in class. All instructors are

required to have multiple office hours during the week. If they don't mesh up very well with the students' schedule, then those can usually be... The instructor can usually make an appointment specifically to see the student. They're typically underutilized so I'd say, if you do have any questions or problems with the course that's the first place to turn and instructors really like it when students do go to them.

We also offer First Year Experience and Personal Development courses: First Year Experience to students who aren't in the Regiment and Personal Development courses to those who are and they cover roughly the same content and they help to reinforce the sorts of study skills that new students will need so there's information about, for example, note taking, planning, keeping up with courses, getting help in courses and the like, so these courses cover that sort of thing.

And then also most new students are going to see some information literacy instruction from the library staff and typically the research librarian will come into some of the classes -- such as the composition course which most new students will take -- and explain the resources that are available in the library and how to find materials that may be needed for courses. In addition, the library also has a fairly robust reserve system for students to get course materials, in addition to ones that they may purchase. So those are some of the academic supports that the Academy offers.

Joceline Boucher: If you want some general advice for doing well in college, I would encourage you to visit my website accessibility.mma.edu. There, under academic support and information for parents, there's a quick guide. I would encourage this not to be just for parents; it's certainly advice, they give them about how to help their students do well in college, but it may just be things that you would like to know about. Things that you would like to think about, for example, for your first class are encapsulated in that guide so I do suggest going to that.

And then, if you would like more information, reach out to me, as I said, I'm glad to answer any questions you may have, so thank you for your time today, and I hope that you have a great Open House, thank you.

For more information, contact:

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