

Tips & Tutors:

What the Learning Center Can Do For You



Tamara Clark

The services offered by the Learning Center are invaluable tools to enhance a student's learning experience. On the first floor of the General Studies building, you will find at your disposal: tutors, a quiet place to study, and computer labs equipped with printers.

The Learning Center is for everyone. Learning Center tutors are available for many classes, including English, Math, Anatomy, and Psychology. They help students prepare for exams, edit essays, and develop valuable note-taking strategies. One-on-one, or with a group, tutors can give you the edge you need to help

you to improve your grades and give you confidence.

The center also hosts public art exhibitions. The artist usually attends the opening of the exhibition to talk about his or her work, and free food, drink, and live music are provided.

Tutors can help improve your grades. My math grades increased dramatically after I worked with a Learning Center Tutor. Some tutors are students themselves and understand the needs of other students.

In years past, the Learning Center was run by Dr. Nanette Hatzes. This year, Nan assumes a new position at Shippensburg University, and the Penn State Mont Alto learning center will be run by Jean Barlup until a permanent new Director is found.

Tuition from page 1

lower than an entire year at Iowa.

The rise in tuition was a result of funding cuts to Pennsylvania state universities.

Even with the rise in tuition costs, Mont Alto is facing funding shortages in a number of key areas and student enrollments are in decline. The problem the campus faces is in order to get money for expansion and recruitment, Mont Alto must increase the number of students it serves. However, to attract more students, the campus needs to offer more programs, and more programs require more money. Ken Gill, Director of Finance, says that each Penn State campus is given a specific geographic radius from which to recruit and cannot recruit outside of that region. This means Mont Alto cannot solve its enrollment problems by expanding the area it serves.

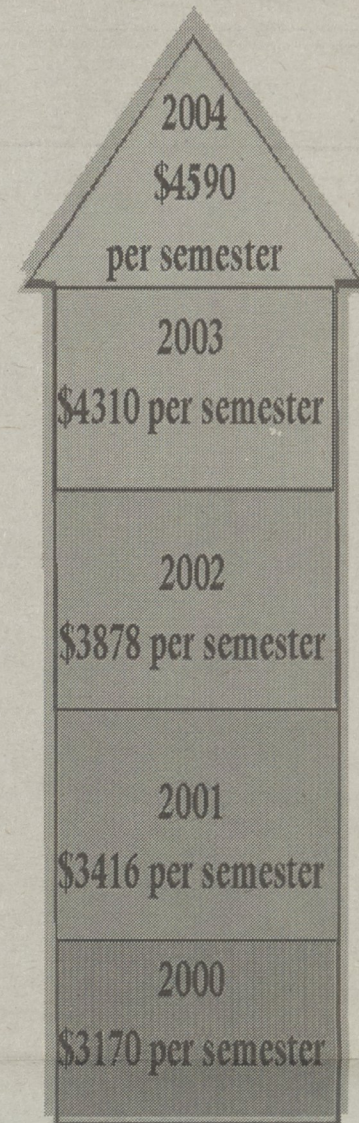
Harrisburg campus's recent expansion into courses for

freshmen and sophomores makes the situation even more difficult. In effect, Mont Alto must now compete with Harrisburg for first year students in addition to other colleges like Shippensburg and Harrisburg Area Community College.

Reduced state funds, increased competition, and higher tuition undermine the campus's struggle for more students.

Enrollment at Mont Alto peaked in 2000 with 1,307 students. Since then, enrollment has declined annually to around 1,100 students.

There are advantages to earning a degree from Penn State Mont Alto. The classroom sizes are much smaller than one finds on larger campuses, and Penn State's reputation makes a degree from Penn State much more valuable than a degree from some of the less expensive universities. Nevertheless, the cost of a degree for most students is turning out to be much higher than they previously estimated.



Tuition for PA resident freshmen

Get to know your way around campus

Christina Green

It's time to start another exciting year at Penn State Mont Alto. To all the first year students, beginning your college career can be quite overwhelming, so knowing your way around campus will make your time here at Mont Alto a lot easier. To help you out, I've come up with a brief overview of places on campus that you should be aware of. This "Tour in Print" may be helpful to returning students as well, since many changes have taken place on campus over the summer.

Conklin Hall is the central location for student services, including Admissions, Financial Aid, Student Affairs, Campus Life, Residence Life,

Registrar, Finance Office, Health Services, and Dr. Gnage's (our campus CEO) office. So if you want to add/drop classes, pay your semester bill, receive information about scholarships or loans, find out what is going on around campus, or are feeling a little under the weather, visit Conklin.

Wiestling Hall is the oldest building within the Penn State system. The first floor has been recently renovated. You can now hang out in the cyber-café and student center. Police Services and the SGA office are also located on the first floor.

The **Multipurpose Activities Center (MAC)** is a

key center for student activities. The gym, two racquetball courts, and fitness center (free to use) are located here, as well as the Multi-Purpose Room which is used for quite a variety of activities. The IT department is also in the MAC, so if you are having trouble with your email account or the internet, feel free to stop by IT for help.

The **Millstream Café** is open from 7 AM to 10:30 PM with a variety of foods to choose from.

The Barnes and Noble **Bookstore** on campus is the spot to buy all of your textbooks (new and used) for class, as well as the latest Penn State gear, school supplies or the newest bestsellers.

Downstairs is a computer lab free to use for all students.

The **Library** is one of the best resources on campus for research assignments. As a Penn State student, you have access to ALL of the books at ALL of the Penn State campuses through the online LIAS system. There are also computers, quiet places to study, and DVDs you can check out.

The **General Studies Building** and **Science & Technology Building** are where you'll probably spend most of your time in class. Both buildings have computer labs and student lounges (soda/snack machines). General Studies is home to the **Learning**

Center where you can study or get assistance from a peer or professional tutor at no cost. Take advantage of the tutoring program; "D for Degree" shouldn't be your studying slogan.

In addition to the **Penn Gates** and **Mont Alto Hall**, there are three other buildings on campus: **Perry Hall**, which houses the University Relations and Alumni Relations offices; the **Student Annex**, which houses an occupational therapy lab; and the **Emmanuel Chapel**, where church services are held.

I hope you enjoy your time here at PSMA!