

STRONGER TOGETHER



TUTORING + LIBRARIES

Tutoring Services finds a home
in K-State Libraries

BY LUKE MATULEWICZ AND LAUREN MULANAX

K-State students have a new opportunity for tutoring this semester, and they're loving it! There has been an increase of more than 50% in the utilization of Tutoring Services at the Academic Achievement Center, Kansas State University's centralized learning center, compared to fall 2023. Among the various changes that Tutoring Services underwent this summer to prepare and better serve students, a move to Hale Library has undoubtedly been the most significant factor in attracting more students to this free service.

Hale Library opened its doors to Tutoring Services in 2024, aligning with a national trend of bringing learning assistance into library spaces.

"It's really the perfect fit," explained Luke Matulewicz, assistant director of the Academic Achievement Center, as he addressed the new and returning Peer Tutors at the beginning of the semester. "Our tutoring methodology is rooted in the Socratic method — we ask more questions than we answer to engage our tutees (students receiving help from a tutor) in the learning process. When we look at the life of Socrates, we see that he spent much of his time in a library talking and debating big ideas. By moving to Hale, it's like returning home — returning to our foundational roots of asking good questions and engaging others in learning in a library."

This isn't the first time students have received tutoring in Hale Library. The Academic Achievement Center began utilizing the Resource Link in Hale Library for occasional Sunday appointments when the space opened in 2021, and K-State Athletics has offered tutoring for student-athletes on the fourth floor for many years.

Thomas Lane, vice president for academic success and student affairs, said, "I'm excited about how this relocation will introduce more students to a critical resource for their

academic success. Hale Library has long been home to Athletics tutoring, so the relocation of the Tutoring Center creates a space for centralized tutoring services."

In 2023, the Academic Achievement Center initiated Tutor Talks, aiming to bring together tutoring professionals across K-State to build community and foster partnerships. Collaboration among the Academic Achievement Center, K-State Athletics Tutoring and Scholars Assisting Scholars in the College of Engineering led to the development of a robust tutor training program before the move to Hale was planned. In the coming year, this collaborative training will be submitted for the International Tutor Training Program Certification through the College Reading and Learning Association (CRLA).

Though the space on the second floor of Hale Library that Tutoring Services will utilize is not yet completed, temporary spaces on the first floor have been very popular. When Lauren Mulanax, tutoring services manager, examined the tutoring data compared to last fall, she could hardly believe her findings.

"I actually reran the data twice," said Mulanax. "I couldn't believe we had seen over a 50% increase compared to last fall, which was our busiest semester since COVID-19 closed campus in 2020."

Not only did Tutoring Services see an increase, but the Libraries saw an overall increase in foot traffic in Hale Library in fall 2024. August and September gate counts had a total increase of more than 17,000 compared to the same months in 2023.

While Tutoring Services has been innovating its outreach efforts, it's hard to deny that the new location has significantly contributed to the rise in student usage.

"We're now in a central, popular location," said Mulanax. "Students see us when they're studying or checking out resources. They notice others getting help and realize it's normal. When a student comes to Hale to study and encounters a problem they can't solve, we often have a tutor ready to assist. We have even started to emphasize that our tutors are the best study partners."



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— LAUREN MULANAX, TUTORING SERVICES MANAGER

In addition to Tutoring Services, the Academic Achievement Center provides academic coaching and success tools for all K-State students as part of their "Free Academic Support Package." For more information about the Academic Achievement Center's services, please visit k-state.edu/aac.