

Greetings, Class of 1963!

As the Director of the Class of 1963 Center for Academic Excellence (CAE), I am honored to update you on Academic Year 2023, a banner year for our top-notch academic support services! Tripling the Brigade's use of CAE services since 2009, in AY 2023 we broke our all-time record with **56,588 visits**—that's over 1,700 visits per week, with nearly 1,000 unique midshipmen using CAE services weekly. In AY 2023, most of those visitors were plebes working to improve their academic performance in USNA's challenging core courses. A whopping **99% of all 4/C midshipmen used CAE services**, with nearly 88% of 4/Cs visiting for chemistry help and over 74% of 4/Cs visiting for calculus. Not far behind the plebes, 85% of 3/C midshipmen used CAE services last year for their STEM and communication needs. Finally, the upper-classmen also relied on our quality academic support, with 60% of 2/C midshipmen and even 43% of 1/C midshipmen utilizing our services. Thanks to your support, our center's reach extends to students from all classes, at all performance levels, for all of their academic support needs.

How do we explain that the use of CAE services has averaged **a yearly increase of 5% over the past eight years**? There are many factors involved, including a national uptick in academic support needs in response to educational disruptions caused by the global pandemic, but we also continue to tailor and refine each of our programs to better meet the needs of the Brigade. A result of the strong reputation we have established, midshipmen trust CAE and see our services as a critical component for enhancing their academic performance. Of the top 100 midshipmen in the class of 2023, 96 used CAE services an average of 14 times. Furthermore, 100% of the graduates ranked in the final 100 of the class used a CAE service while here; on average, those 100 midshipmen utilized CAE 55 times each in their four years.

Since midshipmen have a variety of learning styles, we offer peer led support, traditional one-on-one tutorials, interactive classroom experiences, and more:

Supplemental Instruction



♦ **Supplemental Instruction (SI)** - Students enrolled in traditionally difficult STEM courses can sign up for these non-credit SI classes with no homework, no quizzes, and no tests--just helpful support. The class improves subject retention within a technical discipline by reviewing key concepts concurrent with an associated core course. In the words of one surveyed midshipman, "I liked that the class provided opportunities to work through extra problems with the guidance of a very helpful and qualified instructor." In AY 2023, 129 SI sections were offered, averaging an enrollment of 9 midshipmen per section.

♦ **The Writing & Communication Center (W&CC)** - The Writing Center, which will transition to the Writing & Communication Center this fall, offers one-on-one writing consultations for midshipmen for all writing projects at every stage of the writing process. Our professional and peer tutors work collaboratively with students to improve both the work in progress and the student's overall writing proficiency. We also provide dynamic workshops throughout the year and a 24-hour online paper review on weekends. Additionally, AY 2023 saw the addition of more robust communication offerings, including consultations and workshops on presentation skills, public speaking, and interview preparation. Ultimately, W&CC yielded a record breaking **5,680 visits in AY2023**, which is an **average of 178 weekly visits**. In fact, 38% of the Brigade utilized W&CC services, including 83% of 4/C midshipmen. Furthermore, a student survey revealed that 99% of midshipmen strongly agreed or agreed that their goals were met during their tutorial sessions, that the staff was friendly & helpful, and that the staff was knowledgeable. In the words of one midshipman, "It has been one of the most helpful academic programs on the Yard. There is no reason not to get every paper looked over." We continue to work to improve the communication skills of the Brigade, in both the written and spoken word, which are critical for success in the Fleet.

Writing Tutor Session

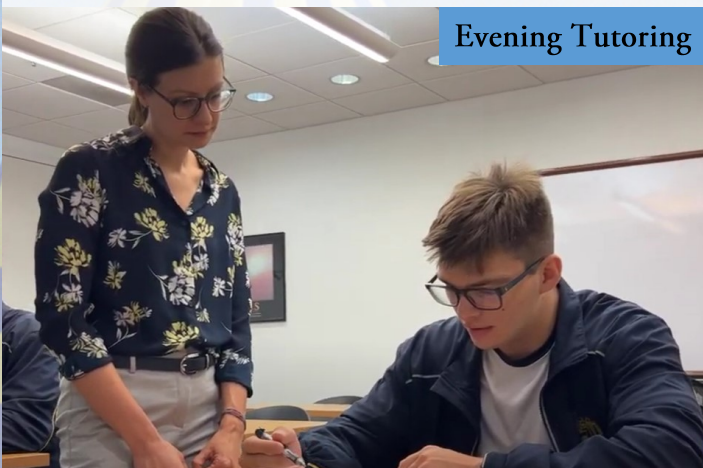


The mission of the Class of 1963 Center for Academic Excellence is to support the mission of the Naval Academy by providing the highest quality academic support programs for all midshipmen seeking to improve their academic performance.

- ◆ **Midshipmen Group Study Program (MGSP)** - Approximately 115 MGSP Leaders work closely with their paired faculty sponsors throughout the year to support their peers by facilitating weekly group study sessions. Over 60 courses are supported. In AY 2023, MGSP averaged 455 visits a week among 118 sessions. One of our most popular services, approximately 50% of the Brigade attended one MGSP study session this year. One midshipman raved, "I liked that across the board, all [MGSP Leaders] fostered productive spaces where I could work on homework with as little or as much interaction with the student leader as I wanted."



MGSP Session



Evening Tutoring

- ◆ **Professional Tutoring** - Offered during the school day and Sunday through Thursday evenings every week, this program is designed to augment Extra Instruction with professional mathematics, chemistry, physics, cyber security, and electrical engineering tutors. Tutors have advanced degrees in their respective fields and address questions from lectures, homework, or labs. In one midshipman's words, "[the tutor] created an open environment to ask questions on homework and get clarification on different concepts." In AY 2023, professional tutoring averaged 482 visits a week.

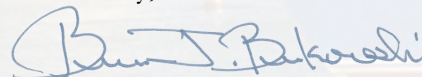
- ◆ **Topic Reviews & Exam Reviews** - Each week, our professional staff holds Topic Reviews for specific areas of core-course-related material, such as "Derivatives," "Electrical Circuits," or

"Internal Combustion Engines." In addition, to help students prepare for six-week, twelve-week, and final exams, Exam Review sessions are held in propulsion, physics, chemistry, and calculus. A midshipman commented, "[the review] helped reinforce topic materials that I struggled to understand in class." In AY 2023, an average of 9 reviews were offered weekly, averaging attendance of 22 midshipmen per review, totaling 273 reviews and 5,913 visits. Of the Brigade, 35% of midshipmen attended a Topic or Exam Review last year.

- ◆ **Strategies for Academic Success (SAS)** - Through one-on-one consultations and custom workshops, our SAS program helps midshipmen develop critical skills and learn strategies in memory improvement, note taking, time management, reading, test preparation, and test anxiety. Our Learning Specialist has continued to extend her reach throughout the Brigade via one-on-one consultations, traditional workshops, and company workshops; 18% of the Brigade utilized SAS this year. In the words of one midshipman, "It taught me to recognize my bad habits and create strategies to be successful." Over 700 midshipmen utilized Strategies for Academic Success program support with over 1,700 visits. Additionally, our **ACE Reader Program** remains popular; this 4-6 week program has proved to dramatically increase midshipmen's comprehension while greatly improving reading speed, and therefore remains an enticing draw for all midshipmen, plebes in particular.

Thank you, Class of 1963, for supporting our efforts to provide dynamic, engaging, and effective academic support for our future naval officers. With something for everyone, CAE now sees 98% of the Brigade in their four years, which means nearly every midshipman utilizes our services before they cross the stage at graduation. In our eyes, this also means that at least 98% of the Brigade owes a debt of gratitude to the Class of 1963. Thanks for all you do!

Sincerely,



Dr. Bruce J Bukowski,

Director, The Class of 1963 Center for Academic Excellence