



ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY
MID-SOUTH

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ASU Mid-South Needs Math Tutors for Fall Semester

Arkansas State University Mid-South needs tutors for this fall, and people with math skills and a desire to help others are in particular demand as the new academic year approaches.

Several of the college's most seasoned tutors graduated in May and will be going elsewhere in August, creating a void in the free service provided to all students who need assistance outside the classroom.

"We're losing a bunch of tutors, so if you want a job that makes a difference and you know enough about math to help students with College Algebra, this is a great opportunity," said Erin Schlauch, Title III PBI SLA/Tutoring Coordinator.

"Up until this semester, I've always been able to find people on our campus, but we're going to need additional help this time. I have a few leads, but the combination of several graduating tutors and the addition of more structured learning assistance labs has created a great need."

Schlauch said she anticipates hiring as many as four math tutors who can work anywhere from 10 to 28 hours per week. Day and evening positions are available.

"I'm most concerned about the night shift because it's really hard to find people willing to work as late as 9 p.m.," she said. "Most of our tutors only have to work until 7, but we will need at least one who can work in the math lab until 9 Mondays through Thursdays."

1. Evaluate the following limit: $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} x \sin\left(\frac{1}{x}\right) =$
A. 0
B. 1
C. e
D. $+\infty$
E. None of these
2. If $\sin x = \sin y$, then $\frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} =$
A. $\frac{\tan y \cos^2 x - \sin x \cos y}{\cos^2 x}$
B. $\frac{\tan y \cos^2 x - \sin x \cos y}{\cos^2 y}$
C. $\frac{\cos y(\sin x - \sin y)}{\cos^2 y}$
D. $\frac{\cos y(\sin x - \sin y)}{\cos^2 x}$
E. None of these
3. Evaluating the integral $\int \frac{x}{x^2 + 1} dx$ yields the result

Schlauch said tutors with math degrees are certainly welcome, as are current and former students with documented math skills. All potential tutors will be evaluated to determine their level of expertise.

“If they have a degree in math or have fairly recent course work, I generally accept that as substantial enough,” she said. “If they have previously been our students, I can review their transcripts and check with our instructors. If it’s just somebody who says, ‘Yeah, I’m pretty good in math,’ then we’re going to test them to see how good their algebra skills are.”

In addition to the math proficiency requirement, prospective tutors should have on overall good track records as students, should enjoy talking with people, and should have a willingness to recruit students for the service.

“To be a good tutor, you have to be a good people person,” Schlauch said. “You need to be a good student but necessarily a straight-A student. You also need to be outgoing enough to actively seek out students who can benefit from tutoring because they’re out there. They just may not realize that they need to come in.”

Schlauch said the college employs as many as 15 tutors/facilitators each semester with varying responsibilities.

“They generally wear at least two hats,” she explained. “Facilitators go into the classrooms as aides to the instructor and students. They can’t teach new content, but they can re-present and come up with exercises that help students learn the concepts.”

Facilitators work with students in College Algebra, English Composition I, General Biology, Anatomy and Physiology, Physical Science, and Chemistry.

“Embedded tutors” have been added to developmental classes to provide additional assistance to the instructors in classes preparing students for college-level work.

“In an effort to help our students be more successful, we’ve been asking more of our tutors/facilitators to help in the classroom,” Schlauch said. “We put our very best and brightest in the classroom because they need to have teaching skills along with content knowledge.”

“We’re reaching students in all kinds of ways. It doesn’t matter where you are, you can get help somehow. That’s the idea.”

If or when the student need increases, the tutoring staff responds accordingly.

“No matter what happens, we’re going to make sure we can meet the need,” Schlauch pointed out. “We just get more imaginative. Sometimes we have group tutoring sessions in science and math, and we encourage English students to send essays to our writing tutors.”

“We had a surge last year and went from 1,125 tutoring appointments from Fall 2013 to 2,460 in Fall 2014. It was a lot, but we never reached a point where we couldn’t help the students. We’ve never had to turn anyone away.”

In addition to the satisfaction of helping others learn, Mid-South tutors have the opportunity for advancement. The college joined the Association for the Tutoring Profession on July 1 and will provide training designed to help tutors go from Novice to Associate to Master levels.

“We’re going to have tutor and facilitator training every month to cover whatever we think will be most helpful to them,” Schlauch said. “They will have the opportunity to earn tutoring certification, and that’s something they can carry that with them wherever they go.”

Schlauch said tutors and facilitators also participate in a week-long training effort prior to each semester.

“We teach them all of the basics and also give them training on what makes a good tutor,” she explained. “We discuss the strategies to use when a student doesn’t seem to know the content, is really struggling, or is getting frustrated. We do a lot of role playing, give them scenarios, and then teach them how to react.”

Schlauch said she relies heavily on Desiree Ciaramitaro and Billie Miner.

“They are so well versed in the way the center runs that they conduct a lot of the training. We meet and come up with concepts, and I know they can handle it. For our tutors, facilitators, and students, they can always reach one of them if they can’t reach me.”

For information on tutoring opportunities on the Mid-South campus, call Schlauch at (870) 733-6790, email her at egschlauch@midsouthcc.edu, or visit her in the Dr. Barbara C. Baxter Learning Success Center in the Donald W. Reynolds Center.