Smart Students: Smarthinking

-Gil Conradis

Online Learning

SMARTHINKING provides online tutoring in Mathematics (Basic Skills - Calculus II), Writing, General Chemistry, Organic Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Introduction to Human Anatomy and Physiology, Accounting, Economics, Introductory Finance, Spanish and Statistics.

Online tutors are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. This service is free to your students and the links are conveniently located in the first week of the “Weekly Class Outline”, and in the syllabi in the LMS for the MBA and Undergraduate programs.

These tutors do not give the student answers to specific problems, but rather lead them to work through the parts of a problem in order to find their own answer. They use an interactive whiteboard to display formulas and explanations to students as well as markup tools for written problems.

Over 80% of SMARTHINKING online tutors have a Masters or PhD in their respective discipline, and they average eight years of teaching experience.

Students can:
• "Drop-in" for live tutoring
• Submit questions for a response within 24 hours.
• Pre-schedule sessions; and view archives of past sessions.

Students get live one-on-one online tutoring help from an experienced tutor in Math, Writing, ESOL, General Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Economics, Statistics and Accounting.

• Submit an essay or paper in any subject or career writing to the Online Writing Lab for review.
• Submit grammar questions or outline a writing assignment with an online tutor. The tutor does not deal with the content, that is for the student to define. The tutor’s task is to critique outline, form, organization, and grammar.

Students may submit questions for tutors to review in any supported subject area, and pick up the tutor's response and suggestions later, at their convenience.

Each student has five hours of time each year and can request further time if needed.

SMARTHINKING is another tool in support of our faculty in Online Learning at Florida Tech.

Using the Academic Alert Form

We all want our students to succeed. We also know that once they fall behind by one or two weeks out of an eight week course, the prognosis is not optimistic.

Attendance is required on a weekly basis. Students are expected to view the online lectures in the week they are offered, and to log onto the site often enough to remain aware of the communication on the Message Board as well as any Class News, Chats and information from the Professor. It is the responsibility of the student,
“...but my professor said I can’t use the Internet.”

First, the library databases provide subscription content. (That means that the library PAYS companies to make this content available to YOU.) Most of the content on the Internet is free OR YOU have to pay for it. In the case of LINK databases, you’ve already done that with your tuition, so you might as well take full advantage of it.

Secondly, what is in the library databases often has been peer-reviewed. That means that experts (such as your professors) in various fields have reviewed these articles and okayed them for publication.

Thirdly, librarians are trained in what we call collection development. This means we take the time to know what publications and resources are important in your field of study, and we work to select and provide what you need in print and in the databases. This is another reason you can trust the content.

So the next time you have a research project, go the library’s Website (www.lib.fit.edu) and click on Databases/Indexes, logging in with your TRACKS. You may be surprised at what you find. Remember, you can always Ask A Librarian for assistance. I am sure your professors will agree.

APPRECIATING EVANS LIBRARY

Our shared vision is clear and simple – to foster the academic excellence of every Florida Tech student; to support the research and teaching of every member of the Florida Tech faculty; and to welcome the community into the hearts and minds of our university.

- Celine Lang
Dean of Libraries

Ask a Librarian has regular “live” conversation during the weekday hours of:
- Monday – Thursday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- Friday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

http://lib.fit.edu/questionpoint/
ATTENTION: Faculty Information

This concerns all online students regarding the transition from fit.edu to my.fit.edu email addresses. This does not apply to you, faculty at this time.

This new system, powered by Google Applications, provides Gmail to the University, as well as a suite of other Google products that enable everyone to better communicate, share, and collaborate. Optional migrations are occurring now. There will be more information regarding the mandatory student transition during December.

1. Your current Florida Tech email address {TRACKS}@fit.edu will continue to be active until August 2nd, 2010.

2. You must inform people of your new email address ({TRACKS}@my.fit.edu) by August 2nd, 2010.

3. To avoid being blocked by SPAM checks, all users of Outlook, Thunderbird and other email clients must update their settings to use the new email address {TRACKS}@my.fit.edu.

For more information students can check out the Google Apps Help Center at http://www.google.com/support/a/users.

based on the “Student Handbook” to be aware of everything happening in the class online.

Often ‘catching up’ is basically out of the question. You have students that are working hard and are deserving of your time. What to do?

That is the purpose of the academic alert form; by using the academic alert form you will gain support for your efforts with the students that are struggling. Use the academic alert form in order to gather some additional resources and assistance. https://dl.fit.edu/forms/ua/alert2/

If the student has contacted you and want to continue, it’s your discretion on accepting late work. Some faculty do not, based on the topics or cumulative material that needs to build on itself. Other faculty are more flexible and will take off points and give them the chance. Usually that depends on the possibility of earning a passing grade in the course.

Students can withdraw through week six, but starting in week four there is no longer a refund of tuition. You can give students the chance to try for a week or so and if not progressing tell them they should withdraw via PAWS by the end of week six. ◊

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U.S. News Ranks Florida Tech Among Nation’s Best

U.S. News and World Report once again ranks Florida Tech among the nation’s best national doctoral universities as it has for nearly 20 consecutive years. The report’s rankings system considers academic peer assessment, retention, student selectivity, student-to-faculty ratios and alumni giving rate. Twenty-three percent of Florida Tech’s incoming freshmen are in the top 10 percent of their high school graduating class. The report noted favorably that 53 percent of all classes include 20 or fewer students. Additionally, alumni giving is at 21 percent, which has come a long way since the eight percent recorded for 2001. ◊

Always bear in mind that your own resolution to succeed is more important than any other.

—Abraham Lincoln

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