

Everyone can have success in university

by Gloria Welton

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

- How can I find out if university is for me?
- Does my university program choice match my career goal?
- How can I find out more about my education and career interests?
- Now that I am in university, I need help. Where can I turn?

The UPEI Webster Centre for Teaching and Learning may be able to help you answer these questions.

The staff at the Webster Centre, located at the Annex of the Robertson Library at UPEI, want to help everyone to succeed in university.

“We offer a safe place for students to get academic help and much more,” says **Dr. Barbara Campbell**, Director of the Webster Centre. “Our number one focus is to help each person benefit from our services.”

“The Centre was founded in 2005, and we have grown so much since then. We now offer many types of learning supports to our students. We are also reaching out to high schools, colleges and organizations. We want to connect with people who need support and guidance as they consider entering UPEI.”

Here is a look at some of the services offered by the Webster Centre:

Accessibility Services & Adaptive Technology

“We are here to ensure everyone, including students with disabilities, receives fair and consistent treatment and equal access to all programs, services and facilities,” says **Joanne McCabe**, Coordinator, Student Accessibility Services.

Transitions Program

“This program is designed to provide extra support and encouragement for first year students admitted to UPEI with lower than admitting average,” says **Treena Smith**, Transitions Program Coordinator. “We also work with first-year students feeling the need for academic and/or peer support.”

The STEP - Student Tutoring Education Program

“We work with high school students who request additional support to help successfully complete their academic studies by linking them with a UPEI student tutor,” says **Krystal Mayne**, The STEP Coordinator.

UPEI Student Tutoring

“This program runs every year during the Fall and Winter semesters,” says Krystal. “The program aims to match all students who request a tutor with a UPEI student tutor within 24 hours. Student tutors come recommended by faculty members and are keen on ensuring the success of their assigned students.”

Pathways to Academic Success

“UPEI Students have access to programs, workshops and individual counselling,” says **Anne Bartlett**, Pathways to Academic Success Coordinator. “These supports help students develop their academic skills. Free workshops such as **How to Learn Best, Preparing for Exams, and The Research Process** are offered daily. If the workshop times do not suit the student’s schedule, I would be happy to meet individually with them.”

Options

“This program helps students put together a Career Portfolio, which leads to developing a meaningful education and career action plan that could affect the rest of their lives,” says Anne. “It is open to UPEI students, college or grade 12 students, or anyone wishing to get direction and guidance on academic and career choices. This nine-week non-credit course is offered in the second semester.”

Effective Reading

“This course is meant for students interested in increasing their reading speed,” says **Suzanne Manovil**, Facilitator. “Students can expect to increase their reading speed and improve comprehension.”

The Writing Centre

“We offer free writing tutoring to all UPEI students,” says **Linda Meggs**, Writing Centre Coordinator. “We want to promote a culture of literacy on campus and to help strengthen writing skills, which are an important tool for learning and thinking. Drop in times are Monday to Thursday from 10:00 am to 7:00 pm, Fridays 10:00 am to 3:00 pm and Sundays 3:00 to 7:00 pm.”

Math Help Centre

“Math tutors are also available free to all university students,” says **Justin Gulati**, Facilitator. “Students can drop by the PIT Monday to Thursday from 1:00 to 6:00 pm and Sundays 2:00 to 6:00 pm.”

English Academic Preparation

“This program helps UPEI international students improve their skills and confidence in English to ensure success in their studies,” says **Christina Perry**, English Academic Preparation Instructor.

Adult Connections in Education (ACE) Program

“ACE is an inclusive post-secondary education program providing supports to students with an intellectual disability,” says **Melissa MacDonald**, ACE Program Facilitator. “We strive to offer opportunities and experiences equal to those of all university students.”

A student’s experience at the Webster Centre



Photo by Dylan Riley, UPEI Student

Jodi Ellen MacPhee, age 27, of Millcove, started her university experience at UPEI in September 2008. “I have been out of school since graduating from high school,” says Jodi. “When I was in high school I really was not motivated. Now, as a mature learner I am ready to continue with my education.”

“When I applied to UPEI, I knew my high school marks were low,” says Jodi. “On my application form I explained that I was ready to learn but would need some support and direction adjusting to university. I am taking the **Transitions** program for my first year and it is the best thing that could have happened. I have learned study skills, time management, and how to cope with the stress that comes with adult education. I also have a tutor who helps me with essay writing. I now have a sound career plan in place and I am very excited about the possibilities.”

“I entered university with a career in nursing in mind,” says Jodi. “I know I have to keep my marks up in order to be accepted into the School of Nursing. But I am ready to walk down that path because this is something that I have wanted to do for as long as I can remember. And I have faith that it will happen when the time is right.”

“I will apply to the School of Nursing this year, work on a few more courses this summer, and stay with my plan until I get in. In the event my action plan needs to be altered, I do have a back-up. The direction and encouragement I am getting through the supports available at the Webster Centre are helping to make my dreams come true.”

For more information about the UPEI Webster Centre for Teaching and Learning call 894-2886 or visit www.upei.ca/webstercentre