ACADEMIC RESOURCES

Student Support Services

Student Support Services (SSS) is a federally funded program available to 200 eligible Central students. It is the purpose of SSS to assist students in achieving their educational goals and to enhance the college experience by providing opportunities for social, emotional and cultural growth. All eligible students are assured equal access to programs, with the eventual outcome being successful graduation from college. The program provides the following support services:

1. Introduction to College Success courses to assist freshmen with the college transition.
2. Cultural enrichment outings in Pella and surrounding areas.
3. Tutoring in basic skills and numerous content areas.
4. Academic accommodations for students with physical or learning disabilities.
5. Supplemental instruction for students who want to improve their understanding of historically difficult classes.
6. Private or small group tutoring for special needs.
7. Professional advising by staff for academic, career and personal issues.
8. Grant aid to qualifying students.

These student assistance and support services are provided free to Central College students who qualify for the program.

The Tutoring & Writing Center

The Tutoring & Writing Center (TWC) provides free individual peer tutoring – both writing and subject tutoring in addition to group tutoring and Supplemental Instruction (SI). Trained student tutors, recommended by faculty, offer feedback and assistance on an appointment or drop-in basis. Writing tutors consult with students on all aspects of the writing process and on any writing assignments. Writing tutors are also paired with each section of the First-Year Seminar (LAS 110), and Writing Fellows are available for Writing-Intensive courses. Group tutors work with individuals or small groups to better understand class material and assignments. SI sessions are peer-led group reviews for historically difficult classes. The TWC, co-directed by the Director of Writing and the Tutoring Coordinator, is now located in the library, facilitating close collaboration between librarians and tutoring and writing staff in their support of student learning.

Geisler Library

Geisler Library is central in supporting student learning and academic success. It provides an extensive collection of print and electronic books, journals, films, music, and archival materials, as well as online access to numerous databases and full-text academic journals. Librarians offer individual research assistance and work closely with faculty to teach students the research abilities necessary for intellectual achievement and lifelong learning. Tutoring and writing services are now located in the library, facilitating close collaboration between librarians and tutoring and writing staff in their support of student learning. Classes may utilize the newly-redesigned library classroom for research or writing instruction. Students can take advantage of numerous group and individual study spaces or take a break in the Café@Geisler downstairs. The library’s media center, now located on the second floor, supports students and faculty as innovators and creators by providing expertise and equipment for digital media projects. Geisler Library’s celebrated Writers Reading Series features local, national, and international authors reading and discussing their works.

Information Technology

Almost every facet of life at Central College is supported by some form of technology. From communicating with prospective students through social media to keeping in touch with alumni through an online magazine, technology helps students, faculty, and staff learn, teach, play, and work.

myCentral, the campus portal powered by Microsoft SharePoint, serves as a gateway to campus information and web-based services. Systems such as Colleague from Ellucian support Central’s administrative processes from before admission through graduation and beyond. Faculty and students have electronic access to course materials and related tools through Central’s learning management system called Blackboard Learn. Panopto capture software allows faculty to create tutorial videos as well as record live classes and student presentations. Google Apps for Education provides cloud storage for files and student email and facilitates collaboration on group projects.

Students bring their own computers and smart devices to campus, but Central provides access to multi-function printers and to specialized software through a virtual environment and through computer labs placed in strategic locations. Mobile apps called Ellucian Go and Blackboard’s Mobile Learn allow students to access customized course and campus information on the go. The student’s ID card is used for many purposes such as checking in for meals, opening residence hall doors, releasing print jobs, and borrowing library materials.

A campus-wide Ethernet network and redundant connections to the Internet underpin all of these systems. A robust 802.11ac Wi-Fi network blankets the campus, including outdoor spaces, classroom buildings and residence halls. The IT Help Desk provides computer support and technical assistance to students, faculty, and staff.

The friendly experts in IT Services strive to enhance learning and productivity through both proven and innovative technology solutions and support services. They seek to provide reliable and secure communication systems that support current day-to-day operations while keeping an eye to the future by monitoring technology trends and anticipating campus needs.
Information Technology Policies
Additional information regarding Information Technology Policies is available at https://www.central.edu/policies/section/51.

PRE-PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS

Pre-engineering

Central's dual degree engineering program leads to a B.A. from Central and a B.S. in engineering from either Washington University (St. Louis), The University of Iowa or Iowa State University. Students obtain a strong liberal-arts education. A broad background in the liberal arts, as well as our emphasis on communication skills, helps students to establish themselves as thoughtful, creative, productive engineers. The transition from high school to a demanding course of study such as engineering can be difficult. Students are helped by small classes taught by extremely well-qualified, experienced teachers committed primarily to their teaching.

Typically, a student enrolls at Central College and chooses a science major closely allied with an engineering field of interest (usually physics, chemistry, mathematics or computer science). After three years of full-time study at Central (with at least 90 semester hours of credit completed, including all Core requirements and all major requirements), the student leaves Central and enrolls at either Washington University, The University of Iowa or Iowa State University. Upon completion of one year of engineering study at Washington University, The University of Iowa or Iowa State University, appropriate credits are transferred back to Central, enabling the student to graduate with a B.A. degree from Central. The student will then earn a B.S. in engineering from the cooperating institution after an additional one to two years of engineering study. Students pursuing Central’s B.S. in Engineering program are not eligible to participate in the dual degree engineering program.

Prior to the start of the first semester of classes in the first year at Central, interested students must formally declare to Central’s pre-engineering program director their intent to participate in order to graduate in the time frame mentioned above. They must also complete specific courses at specific points in their academic programs to remain eligible for continued participation. Careful consultation with the appropriate faculty advisors makes this cooperative program successful.

This dual degree program also enables students to complete a full four years of study and the B.A. degree at Central. Students opting to do so may then take advantage of their advanced standing toward the fulfillment of B.S. in Engineering requirements at any of the cooperating institutions. Students pursuing this option must declare their intent prior to the start of their second year at Central.

Pre-health

The pre-health professions program is designed to serve the needs of students who plan to attend professional or graduate school in a variety of health-related fields (including but not limited to medical school, veterinary school, dental school, optometry school, chiropractic school, nursing school, physical therapy school and occupational therapy school). Central offers dual degree agreements with Palmer College of Chiropractic (Davenport, Iowa) and Allen College of Nursing (Waterloo, Iowa). Because of the diversity of academic preparation required by the various health professional and graduate schools, the pre-health program is designed as a supplemental advising program meant to complement any major. Students participating in the pre-health program will be assigned a major advisor associated with the pre-health program. As students identify specific professions or areas of interest, they should contact the health professions coordinator, Dr. Ellen DuPré. The program coordinator will then direct the student to a pre-health advisor with advising expertise appropriate to the student’s interests. The role of the pre-health advisor is to guide the student in identifying appropriate graduate or professional schools and their admission requirements and to assist the student in designing curricular sequences to meet the individual professional school requirement.

Pre-nursing

Central’s agreement with Allen College is an excellent way for students to obtain both a nursing degree and a liberal arts degree. This program allows students to complete both a Bachelor of Arts degree (BA) from Central College majoring in Biology, Communication Studies, Psychology, Sociology or Anthropology and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) from Allen College. Students are able to take full advantage of all opportunities offered at a small liberal arts institution. Students may spend three or four years at Central as a full time student, taking courses toward the Central College degree and then transfer into the Allen College Accelerated Nursing Program and complete a 15 month program. Credits earned from each institution allow for completion of both degrees in just a little over 4 years. Students may also opt to complete the four year degree at Central College and then transfer to the Nursing Program at Allen College.

Students interested in this program should contact Dr. Ellen DuPré, the Health Professions Coordinator. Dr. DuPré will work with students and their major advisor to ensure that all required coursework is taken and to communicate with representatives at Allen College regarding transfer into their Nursing program. Because the pre-nursing option does involve meeting several requirements for both degrees it is best if interested students meet with their advisor and/or Dr. DuPré prior to the start of their first semester to develop a three year schedule plan that will ensure that all requirements are met in order to graduate in the time frame mentioned above.

Pre-chiropractic

Central’s 3 + 1 agreement with Palmer College is an excellent opportunity for students to obtain both a Doctor of Chiropractic degree and a liberal arts degree in a shorter time span. Students will earn credits toward a Bachelor of Arts degree (BA) from Central College majoring in Biology and transfer to Palmer College to begin work on the Doctor of Chiropractic degree. Students typically spend three years at Central as full time students, taking courses toward the Central College degree with a major in