What is the QS Drop-in Center?

CLEAR launched the new quantitative skills drop-in tutoring center in fall 2013. Located within the Science Library, it offers open drop-in hours and aims to help students with problem-solving skills they need to succeed in such disciplines as biology, chemistry/biochemistry, computer science, environmental studies, geology, math, neuroscience, physics/astronomy, and psychology.

Students seeking support for material from a variety of courses, particularly ones at the introductory level, are encouraged to drop in. Tutors from a variety of majors with strong backgrounds in mathematics or experience in programming and modeling and other quantitative methods will be there to assist you.

What should you expect?

Our drop-in student tutors receive training in pedagogical skills so that they can effectively support students with a variety of backgrounds with specific quantitative topics.

For basic quantitative skills, generally any tutor will be a great resource. For class- or major-specific questions, it can be helpful to work with another tutor who’s familiar with the content because they can work through the quantitative skills in a way that’s more tailored to what you’re studying.

Some of the skills supported include:

- basic mathematical skills (graphing, algebra)
- software skills (Excel, statistics, modeling)
- statistics (tools, approaches, software)
- computation (programming languages)

Tutoring is an active learning session that will help you with skills and content so that you are able to succeed in a class independently. It is not a replacement for class or professor office hours, and it is not a way to get someone else to do your work.

What can the center do for you?

Checking over your work, re-emphasizing, and clarifying concepts helps to reinforce your knowledge and skills on the subject, and can make you more confident in your answers and problem-solving abilities.

A QS Center tutoring session can not only provide clarification on what you’ve already figured out, but also lend a fresh set of eyes to look at your homework.

If you’re exploring a project or skill outside of a class, the Center definitely has resources for that, too! Everyone’s here to share what they know and learn a little more about what they don’t. Going to the Center will push you to get more out of the classes you might be doing fine in otherwise.

How to prepare

- First, attempt your homework problems before you meet with a tutor. It’s important to come with questions so your tutor knows exactly what you need in order to be successful on your own. Even if you think you got all the answers right, a good way to make sure you’re solid on the material is to explain how you got your answer to a peer.

- Next, visit the Q-Center website for a list of all tutors and their majors, as well as a calendar that shows when they all have office hours.

- Bring your assignment or questions, any attempts you’ve made on it so far, paper and something to write with, and any materials you’re using - like your textbook, class notes, and maybe a specific computer program.

QS Center Hours:
Sunday 2-4pm and 7-11pm
Monday-Wednesday 7-11pm
Thursday 8-10pm