

A decorative border of 32 icons arranged in a 4x8 grid surrounds the central text. The icons are stylized and use a color palette of red, blue, yellow, and light blue. Some icons include geometric shapes like squares, diamonds, and circles, while others represent abstract concepts like a sun, a building, or a person. The background is a light blue with a subtle, wavy pattern.

Welcome to *KU* ORIENTATION

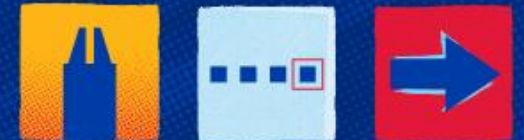
A decorative border of 24 icons arranged in a 4x6 grid surrounds the central text. The icons are in various colors (red, blue, yellow, light blue) and include symbols like a sun, a building, a factory, a diamond, a circle, a square, a triangle, and a star.

Academic Supports with Wingspan: Center for Learning and Writing Support

Summer 2026

Today's Objectives

- Understand KU's main academic support programs and services
- Identify and normalize common academic support needs and ways you can help, including places to direct your student to meet these needs





THE WINGSPAN

The logo for the University of Kansas (KU), consisting of the letters "KU" in a white serif font on a blue circular background.

Overview

Mission Statement:

The Wingspan: Center for Learning and Writing Support is your center for peer-to-peer academic support on our campus. Our mission is to deepen comprehension of subject matter, to foster metacognitive growth, to facilitate life-long learning, and to empower you to generate meaningful connections through your academic pursuits.

- Anschutz 424, Online
- learningandwriting.ku.edu
- 785-864-7733
- learning@ku.edu
- @kulearningwritingcenter (IG)

Transitioning Into College

- First year of college = big transition for all students **and** their caregivers!
- How your student reacts to that transition is not a problem or failure = normal
- Students' support system will change as they transition into college.
- **Our goal:** To be part of your student's support system for the academic part of the transition

Student Scenario

Life before KU included a lot of structured time for your student, including with her academics. In addition, she had you, her teachers, and other support people to check in regularly with her to stay on top of everything. Now, at college, with only a few classes a day, an abundance of opportunities (and distractions), and so much in front of her, your student struggles to keep track of time and her work. With multiple projects and exams piling up, she is unsure of how to handle it all.

Peer Academic Coaching

WELCOME TO
THE HILL

- Coaching sessions with other KU students acting as role models and academic partners.
- Student-driven approach where the peer coach offers suggestions to empower the student and encourage their potential.
- Accountability sessions that help boost productivity.
- Coaches embedded in select First Year Seminar courses.
- Evidence-based coaching strategies for college and life success.
- Well-trained peer coaches with various life and academic experiences.

Example Topics During Coaching Meetings:

- Growth Mindset
- Learning Strategies
- Time Management
- Motivation
- Note-taking Strategies
- Self-care
- Test-taking and Other Study Strategies



Student Scenario

Your student has a learning disability. They've figured out ways they learn best, but these methods aren't typical or shared by many other students. They are often challenged in group-based learning environments because they don't think like others around them. They need some extra support as they are preparing for an exam but aren't sure where to go to get help that's catered to their unique learning needs.



Tutoring

- Meet one-on-one with a tutor for 50 minutes and the option of bringing up to 1 friend with them.
- Drop-in tutoring is available for select courses at limited times without an appointment.
- Appointments are scheduled by students as needed.

Benefits:

- No commitment to regular meetings – receive support when you most need it
- Flexible times offered from multiple tutors across the week
- Having the sole focus from a tutor during scheduled time
- Choice between virtual or in-person appointments



Disciplines Covered

Variable each semester based on staffing, but on average:

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| • Accounting | • French |
| • Aerospace Engineering | • Geology |
| • Biology | • Math |
| • Business Analytics | • M. Engineering |
| • Chemical & Petroleum Engineering | • Physics |
| • Chemistry | • Psychology |
| • Economics | • Chinese |
| • Electrical Engineering / Computer Science | • Sociology |
| • Finance | • Spanish |
| | • And more! |

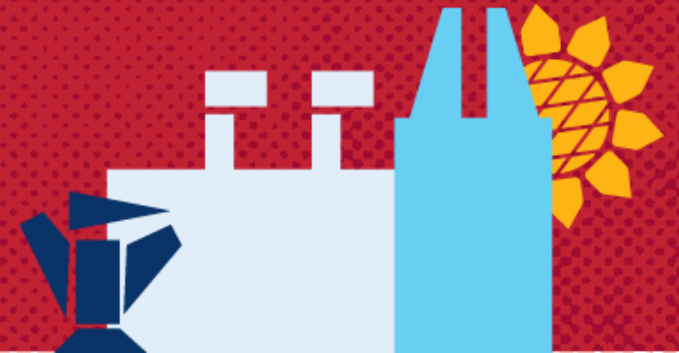


Student Scenario

Your student is feeling overwhelmed and is starting to talk about dropping chemistry.* They have always been strong in chemistry and may have even tutored friends or classmates in the subject in high school.

Now, a couple of weeks into CHEM 130 at KU, their struggling much more than expected. The pace feels overwhelming, the material is more challenging, and they feel like they are the only one who is going through this. For the first time academically, their starting to doubt themselves.

*or math, physics, etc.



Supplemental Instruction (SI)

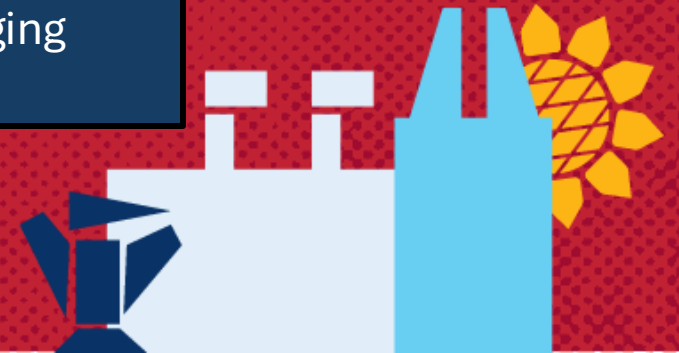
About SI:

- SI Leaders previously took the class, received an A or B, and attend lecture to stay updated on the course content. They host two study sessions weekly to help their peers.
- SI sessions focus on reviewing challenging material through engaging activities and collaborative problem-solving with classmates.
- Sessions also help students develop effective study strategies—what to learn and how to learn it.
- The SI session schedule is released during the second week of classes, both in class and on our website.

Supported Classes:

- MATH 101, 104, 115, 125, 126, and 127
- BIOL 150, 152, 240, and 240
- CHEM 130 and 135
- ACCT 200
- BSAN 202
- And more!

SI is designed to help students succeed in traditionally challenging courses by building both understanding and confidence.



Student Scenario

Before college, your student may (or may not have) have written many papers. Those papers received good enough grades and never received much feedback. At KU, your student got his first paper back and earned a D- and does not understand the feedback the faculty member provided. He's considering dropping the class and is losing confidence in himself.

Writing Center Services

Through consultations, students can:

- Work on any type of writing for any class or project, including personal statements!
- Meet one-on-one with a trained consultant at any stage in the writing process from brainstorming to editing
- Work collaboratively to write and revise



Types of Writing Consultations:

In-Person, Videoconferences,
and Asynchronous Feedback

New Options:

Language Consultations
Writing Groups

Additional Writing Support:

Writing Guides and Videos
Assignment Planner



Student Support Guidance



Do's and Don'ts



Please Do Not

- Call to make appointments for your student
- Shame them
- Ask us to intervene if the student has not expressed interest or taken concrete steps to work with us

Please Do

- Check in with your student frequently
 - See the stress calendar for potential check-in times and topics
- Empower your student to access our resources and advocate for themselves
- Normalize your student's experience
 - The college transition is difficult for all students regardless of their previous academic behaviors, habits, and tendencies



Accessing Wingspan Services

- **In person:** Anschutz Library, room 424
 - **Monday – Thursday:** 9 am – 7 pm
 - **Friday:** 9 am – 5 pm
 - **Sunday:** 2 pm – 6 pm
- **Make appointments:** Jayhawk GPS/Navigate app
- **Drop-In Tutoring:** see our website for available courses and times
- SI Session schedules on our website and announced in classes partnered with SI



Anschutz Library, Room 424

learningandwriting.ku.edu

learning@ku.edu

785-864-7733

Instagram: @kulearningwritingcenter



Questions?

Use this QR code to complete
the session feedback survey:

