

# TAEC Learning Specialists

## The Learning Specialist Role

Learning Specialists support students in reaching their full potential in several different ways:

- teaching courses to enhance student learning and boost academic confidence
- facilitating study skills workshops by request throughout the academic year
- coordinating peer academic support programs and other TAEC initiatives
- providing individual consultation and guidance to students

## Student Consultations with Learning Specialists

Learning Specialists consult one-on-one with students to help them:

- explore and learn new strategies/skills to improve their academic success
- identify areas for growth and develop action plans to meet goals
- connect to campus partners and resources aligned to their individual needs

Generally, the Learning Specialist will have a conversation with the student to better understand their specific circumstances, experiences, and goals. Through this reflective conversation, the Learning Specialist and student develop a realistic action plan. The action plan could include strategies to implement particular resources, referrals to other TAEC or campus resources, or a clear to-do list.

## Who will benefit from meeting with a Learning Specialist?

Appointments are open to any student who want to improve their academic skills and can be a great resource when a student:

- has a pattern of struggling academically
- spends a lot of time studying without seeing desired results
- wants insight into what they are doing well
- is eager to become more comfortable in a new course or field
- thrives with added support and social accountability

## Which Learning Specialist should the student meet with?

The TAEC has Learning Specialists available to all students, each with different areas of expertise: study skills, math/science, and writing. Typical topics for each learning specialist are listed below.

Study Skills	Math and Science	Writing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• student success strategies</li><li>• time management</li><li>• effective test prep</li><li>• reading/note-taking strategies</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• learning in problem-solving based courses</li><li>• moving beyond memorization</li><li>• high school to college-level transition</li><li>• effective learning skills in math and science</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• writing support for essays and projects in any major, course, or genre</li><li>• writer's block, brainstorming, rough drafts, final edits</li><li>• grad school/scholarship applications</li></ul>

Note: The TAEC also has a Summer Bridge Learning Specialist who works specifically with students who are part of the UO Summer Bridge Program on learning strategies and first-year advising topics.

## Making an Appointment

Students can view the Learning Specialists' availability on Navigate, which is typically Monday-Friday, 9-12 pm and 1-4 pm. Appointments are 45 minutes long with in-person or remote options.

When scheduling, students should select "Tutoring and Academic Support" as the department, "Tutoring and Academic Engagement Center (4<sup>th</sup> Floor Knight Library)" as the location, and the Learning Specialist they'd like to meet with. We encourage students to provide context: personal goals for the appointment or an explanation about the situation they are seeking help for.

## Referring Students

- It may be helpful to share with students what they can expect during the appointment (see [Student Consultations with Learning Specialists section](#)).
- Inform us of any important context or priorities. Students can share what they would like to cover when booking an appointment in the comment. Advisors can also email Learning Specialists directly– we'd love to hear from you!
- Making an email introduction can break the ice and improve follow-through.
- In a 10-week quarter, the earlier we meet with a student, the greater the impact we can make!

## Contact Us!

More information about Learning Specialist consultations is available on the [TAEC Learning Resources page](#). Please don't hesitate to reach out to any of us:

### Study Skills Learning Specialist

Nicholas Forster, PhD  
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### Writing Learning Specialist

Maile Speakman, PhD  
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### Math and Science Learning Specialist

Kenyon Plummer, PhD  
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### Summer Bridge Learning Specialist

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