



THE ADVISOR ADVOCATE

Special Edition: The Academic Success Center

The Academic Success Center (ASC@IUP) is a department designed to **assist undergraduate students in their academic pursuits**. Take a closer look at the programs ASC@IUP offers to academically support students throughout their years at IUP.

Academic Success Assistance Program

The Assistance Program works with **students who are on probation or are academically-at-risk**.

Students are on academic probation when their Cumulative GPA falls below a 2.00. Academically-at-risk students are nearing that threshold.

Through the Assistance Program students meet bi-weekly with an academic success assistant to track their progress.

Assistants are coordinated through a student's college dean.

Find a list of college dean contacts here:

<https://www.iup.edu/success/academic-success-assistance-program/>

Walk-In Tutoring Center & Supplemental Instruction

ASC@IUP offers **free tutoring** in 201A Stabley, no appointment necessary. They also offer Supplemental Instruction (SI) in Pratt Hall for courses with difficult material or high withdrawal rates.

Find the schedule here: <https://www.iup.edu/success/tutoring-schedules/>



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ASC@IUP

Academic Success Assistance Program

Walk-in Tutoring

The Student Advocate

Lead Peer Mentoring

Structured Group Peer Mentoring

Academic Success Center
202 Stabley Library
asc-inquiry@iup.edu
<https://www.iup.edu/success/>

For more information:
CTE Office: 103 Stabley

Director:
Stephanie Taylor-Davis
teaching-excellence@iup.edu

Associate Director for Academic Advising:
Erin Conlin
elconlin@iup.edu

Editor and Designer:
Margaret Olin

Understanding IUP's Student Advocate

Advisors play an important role in the life of a student. While the focus is on guiding students through the academic process and supporting their career goals, advising can present issues and challenges that go beyond an advisor's expertise.

IUP offers excellent resources to support struggling students.

The Assistant Director of the **Academic Success Center** (ASC@IUP) and **IUP Student Advocate, Megan McCue**, works closely with the Assistant and Associate Deans of each Academic College to assist our Students on a range of issues.

If you are concerned about a student (advisee or a student in one of your classes), you can **reach out to the Assistant and Associate Dean of your college and they will connect the student to the Student Advocate office if necessary**. The main role of the IUP Student Advocate is to direct students to the appropriate university offices and resources to address academic, emotional, financial, medical, personal and social concerns.



Megan McCue, IUP Student Advocate and Assistant Director of ASC@IUP

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Did you know?

The Office of the Student Advocate works with the **IUP Lead Peer Mentoring Program** to provide additional assistance to students. The IUP Lead Peer Mentors are trained and supervised undergraduate students who offer guidance and support to students as they transition to college during their first year. The Lead Peer Mentors staff our Academic Resource Center located in **203 Stabley Library**, Sunday through Thursday at varying hours. (Check [the website](#) for individual peer mentors' hours). IUP students are welcome to meet with our peer mentors for assistance navigating MyIUP, Degree Works, and the Course Registration Toolbox. The Lead Peer Mentors can also assist with goal setting, time-management, and study skills.

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As the **IUP Student Advocate**, Megan works with students who are considering a total semester or cancellation of their future enrollment— advising them on the process and discussing the underlying reason for their temporary or permanent departure from IUP. If necessary, Megan will connect them to the necessary campus resources to assist with their situation. Faculty and advisors may receive requests from the IUP Student Advocate to verify student class attendance and participation necessary for billing and financial aid purposes. In addition, the **IUP Student Advocate** sends email notifications regarding student absences due to illness, hospitalization, bereavement and/or military leave.

To get a Peer Mentor, fill out at the **Mentor Me at IUP** form. Find a link to the form here: <https://www.iup.edu/success/student-advocate/peer-mentoring-program/>

Contact Megan:
202 Stabley
724-357-4070
megan.mccue@iup.edu

Structured Peer Mentoring at IUP

Peer mentoring has been an important component in education since its inception. Mypeer.org defines mentoring as:

"a relationship, which has mutual benefits for all parties involved, and is generally used to help a less experienced person achieve their goals by receiving assistance and guidance from a more experienced person" (2010).

MyPeer stated more specifically, "**Peer mentoring aims to enhance supportive relationships between two people**, sharing knowledge and experience and providing an opportunity to learn from different perspectives" whereby the "mentor serves as a positive role model, promotes raised aspirations, positive reinforcement, and provides open-ended counseling and

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At IUP, the **University Wide Retention and Persistence Committee** has focused on the development of peer mentoring through the establishment of the Structured Peer Mentoring subcommittee.

A **Structured Peer Mentoring Group (SPMG)** at IUP is defined as: *A group of university trained and supervised IUP student leaders who have established a mentor-mentee relationship with current or prospective IUP students to support and guide these students toward their success.*

One of the goals of SPMGs at IUP is to ensure students are receiving the support they need to be successful in college. Some departments and organizations currently have active SPMGs at IUP:

- **Academic Success Center:** Ms. Megan McCue
- **University College:** Ms. Hillary Stitt
- **College of Natural Science and Mathematics :** Dr. Anne Kondo
- **Theater, Dance & Performance:** Brian Jones & Dr. Carrie J. Cole
- **History:** Dr. Christine Baker

We'll be working with the SPMG advisors over the 2019-2020 academic year to advance the training of mentors to benefit the mentors and mentees' experiences. In the interest of contributing to increasing retention and persistence at IUP, we encourage your involvement in or engagement with SPMGs and (peer) mentoring in general.

If you have interest in being involved with one of these or other SPMGs, or have ideas regarding SPMGs, please feel free to reach out to Ms. Megan McCue (mmccue@iup.edu).

Additionally, if you happen to be working with a student you believe could benefit from peer mentoring as a mentee, please refer them to the LEAD program. You can learn more about IUP LEAD Peer Mentoring here: <https://www.iup.edu/success/student-advocate/peer-mentoring-program/>

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