

Achieving Excellence Together!

The **Math and Science Learning Center (MSLC)** is a welcoming learning environment that provides diverse forms of academic support to students enrolled in BIOS, CHEM, MATH, and PHYS courses at UIC.

At the MSLC, you will find a friendly team of supporters (peers, faculty, TAs, staff) who are here to help you learn as much as you can during your time at UIC and to help you take the next step in your academic career. Bring questions from your classes, homework problem sets, lab reports, and projects to receive support and to learn together with your instructors and classmates. Join a drop-in session or review, in-person or online at a time that works best for you. No appointments are necessary!

Empower yourself to succeed and take advantage of this wonderful resource!
We look forward to learning together this year!



Hours: Mondays – Thursdays 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM,
Fridays 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
(plus evening weekend sessions online)

Visit: <http://mslc.uic.edu>
for support schedules, links to online sessions,
resources, and more!

Contact: mslc@uic.edu
312-355-4900

Staff: Debra Levine (dlevin6@uic.edu), MSCS Program Coordinator
Diana Pavón (pavon2@uic.edu), Program Manager
Danielle Liubicich (dlubi@uic.edu), Director

MSLC HIGHLIGHTS

- **For the students, by the students** – Much of our daily operations and programming is led by students! The MSLC employs over 100 students each semester across our Ambassador (logistics, front desk) and Peer Learning Assistant (academic support) teams!
- **Excel in your courses** – Join any of our 600+ academic support sessions per week to continue to learn in your BIOS, CHEM, EAES, MATH, PHYS and STAT courses! In essentially all 100 and 200 level courses with services provided through the MSLC, students who come to seek academic support, outperform their peers who do not attend. (*Year 1 data*)
- **Join a community** – Studying in the MSLC, you will be in good company as many peers study here. We had just under 20,000 visits last year! Learn together and meet students in your courses!
- **Set up for success** – The MSLC is a large space with modular furniture arranged for group seating and collaborative work. Many of our walls are coated in dry-erase paint, so you can draw on the walls as you study together. The MSLC also has desktop computers and printing/scanning stations for students.
- **Connect with Course Instructional Teams** – Drop-in hours in the MSLC are a great way to ask your Instructors and Teaching Assistants (TAs) questions about course material and their professional experiences! Check the MSLC website schedule for times when any Faculty, TAs, or Peer Learning Assistants may be available for your course, and drop-in their in-person or online sessions.
- **Connect with Campus** – Our staff team is here to support you and connect you with the many wonderful resources available across campus!

MSLC TOUR

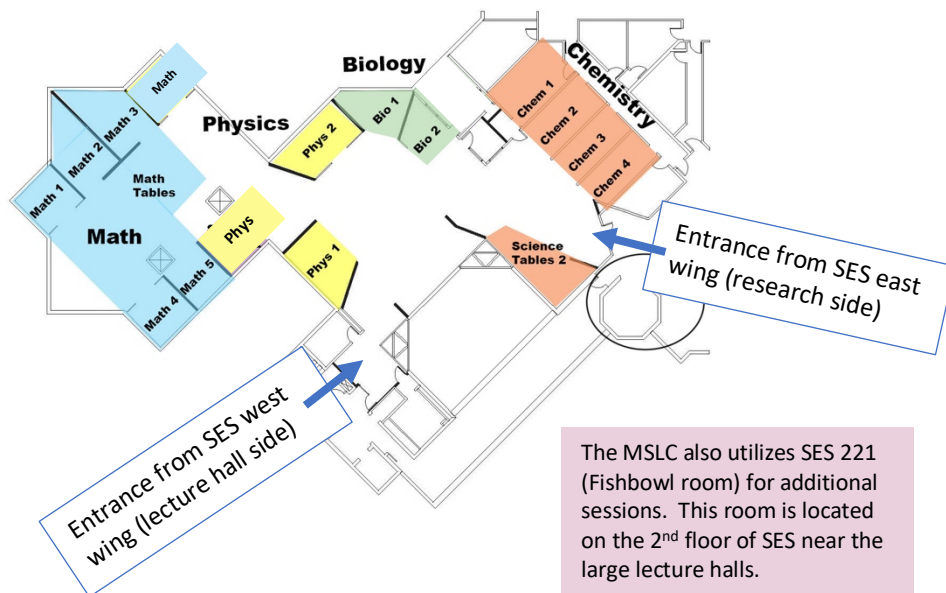
You are always welcome to bring your students to visit the MSLC as a group. Please ask our Ambassadors or staff for a brief tour, or use the tips below for a brief, self-guided MSLC tour:

- Enter MSLC and mention **ICard swipe stations** at entrances for students.
- **Say hello to Ambassadors** at main desk or entrance – they are a great resource for questions and finding support for your course!
- Walk over to the **area where support for your course** is usually provided (*see map below*).
- Mention that **all providers should have signs** on their table indicating the course they support, and students are **welcome to ask any provider** questions (not just their specific TA/Instructor)!
- Mention the **MSLC website** includes the schedule of support sessions plus resources.
- Indicate all **sessions are open to everyone** (no appointments needed) & sessions extend into **evenings and weekends online**.
- Students are **always welcome** to come to the MSLC to study together!
- Share some of the **highlights** listed above and/or your personal experiences with **why coming to the MSLC is beneficial to students!**
- Let students know the entire **MSLC team is excited to learn together** with them, and we are **grateful to be part of their community!**

New MSLC Tour Video: <https://youtu.be/JgD7wyl71EE?si=YxBnEA4Vk0EBIHw>

MSLC Sections SES 3rd Floor

*Please note: MSLC sections may vary slightly based on total number of visitors in the MSLC at any time but providers will always have signs for courses they are supporting!



The MSLC also utilizes SES 221 (Fishbowl room) for additional sessions. This room is located on the 2nd floor of SES near the large lecture halls.

WORKING IN THE MSLC

The MSLC will be open to visitors **Mondays through Thursdays 9AM - 6PM** and **Fridays 9AM - 5PM**. Some academic support sessions may be offered in-person throughout the week while other sessions may be offered online. *All evening and weekend sessions will take place virtually.*

We are grateful you are part of the MSLC team providing academic support to students. **If you are hosting sessions at the MSLC, please help us promote a welcoming learning environment for all by:**

- **Checking in at the Main Desk** – Please sign-in on the paper forms and pick up supplies (markers, paper towels for erasing, spray bottles for walls, surface wipes, course sign, etc.) at the start of each MSLC session. ***Please only use the markers we provide as many other brands do not erase cleanly from our walls!***
- **Being a good teammate** – We appreciate your flexibility and understanding while working in this shared space. Please contact the main desk if your group requires a larger space than is currently available or you would like to make a Fishbowl (SES 221) reservation in advance.
- **Displaying the course sign** (provided during check-in) on your table so students can easily find you.
- **Modeling welcoming behavior** – Together we can maintain a safe, respectful, and welcoming environment for all visitors. Please sit so you are facing the direction students may approach your table whenever possible!
- **Reaching out and introducing yourself** to students. This helps build sense of community and supports students who are new to the space or may benefit from assistance finding support for their courses.
- **Asking students to check in each time they are in the MSLC** – Please help us maintain accurate records of the number of students utilizing the MSLC by reminding students to check in at the ICard swipe stations at the entrances.
- **Cleaning up as you leave** – Please help us keep all areas clean for all to use. Cleaning wipes, paper towels, and hand sanitizer pumps are available at various cleaning stations throughout the center.
- **Notifying us of any concerns that you or your students have while working in the MSLC** – Our team is here to offer support to everyone, and we are happy to help connect visitors with any helpful campus resources!

We really appreciate all you do to facilitate student learning, and we will continue to encourage all students to utilize your excellent academic support! Thank you for being an important part of the MSLC Team!

MSLC SCHEDULE

Our website schedule will indicate the **mode** (in-person/online) by which services are provided at each **time** and will include **direct links** to virtual sessions whenever possible (*please note: UIC credentials log in required to access these pages*).

Many course teams (Faculty, TAs, Peer Learning Assistants) may schedule their sessions collaboratively utilizing shared documents (*ex: Google doc*) at the start of the semester. The MSLC can post information from these collective documents or individuals may share drop-in hours directly with the MSLC through a form provided on the [For Staff](#) page.

Please reach out to mslc@uic.edu with any daily absences or schedule updates throughout the semester.

*** We also have an "[All Schedules](#)" page on the MSLC website that includes a public version of the schedules where names and links have been removed. Visitors may use this page to gain an overview of all services provided. You may view each discipline's academic support schedule from this single landing page by using the tabs at the top of the schedule. ***

ENCOURAGING PARTICIPATION

Help us encourage the use of this wonderful, *free* academic support by promoting participation in MSLC as a practice of excellence for all students!

Here are a few examples of ways to highlight the MSLC to your students:

- **Introduce the MSLC** as a fantastic resource for all students during your 1st course meeting or during week 2 (& share why you feel drop-in hours/reviews can be so valuable to learning, course success, professional development!)
- **Visit the MSLC with your students** during a discussion section, lab intro session, or following a class meeting so students are familiar with the space and understand what to expect when they arrive on their own
- **Include the MSLC hours, logo, or fun fact on your course Blackboard site** as well as share any drop-in hours or link to the MSLC academic support schedule pages (<https://mslc.uic.edu/academic-support/all-schedules/>)
- **Introduce all the individuals who may be offering academic support for your course** early in the semester (all TAs, Peer Learning Assistants, Instructors **across all sections**) so students are familiar with everyone available to support them for their course. Indicate all these providers are part of their team and invite students to come learn, together, as valuable members of this community!
- **Ask a bonus clicker question or quiz question about the MSLC** (*Where can you go on campus for free academic support for this course? Students who succeed in this course often take advantage of which types of services provided by UIC? Where can you find members of your course team who are available to help you with questions outside of class time (in-person or virtually)?*)
- **Encourage students to seek feedback** on an assignment or quiz revision during drop-in hours
- **Offer a few bonus points for joining a drop-in hour session** for your course (virtually / in-person)
- **Send students on a scavenger hunt for support services** across campus and include a stop at the MSLC! (*also maybe the wellness center, writing center, cultural centers, student success units, library, rec plex, etc – we can provide an example activity!*)



ADDITIONAL MSLC RESOURCES

FISHBOWL – SES 221

The Fishbowl room (SES 221) is available for large group study or review sessions on a reservation basis. Please reach out to our Program Manager, Diana Pavón, at mslc@uic.edu if you would like to schedule your sessions in this space at any time during the semester. *We will provide additional information regarding procedures and tips for using this space once we confirm your reservation.*

WEBSITE RESOURCE PAGES

The MSLC website includes dedicated pages to helping students connect with campus resources and info for staff as well. Please visit <https://mslc.uic.edu> for helpful links, videos, and documents!

VIRTUAL BACKGROUNDS & INSTRUCTIONS

A few of our talented Ambassadors have designed some virtual backgrounds you can use during your online sessions as well as an infographic explaining how to use these in Zoom. Please share these!

Please visit the MSLC website for the infographics and links to background images:

<https://mslc.uic.edu/additional-resources/virtual-backgrounds-and-profile-images/>

CONNECT WITH THE MSLC ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

Please connect with us on Instagram (@mslc_uic) and Twitter (@uic_mslc)! We look forward to being more active on social media and connecting with the MSLC community.

LIVE CHAT!

We will continue utilizing our Live Chat feature on the website where visitors can ask our questions and a member of the MSLC team will answer live during MSLC operating hours. If a question is missed, it will automatically email the MSLC, and we can respond as soon as possible from the mslc@uic.edu account.

