The University of Washington is committed to ensuring each student is successful once they arrive on campus. Economically disadvantaged, first-generation and underrepresented minority students face some of the most significant barriers to earning their degree. An uneven academic playing field, a lack of community support and limited campus engagement are often the most difficult challenges they face.

The Instructional Center (IC), housed in the Office of Minority Affairs & Diversity, serves to ensure the academic success of students. For over 40 years, the IC has provided a unique and proven blend of services to create a sense of community and pave the way to the University's most competitive majors, and ultimately, graduation and successful careers.

**OUR MISSION**

The mission of the Instructional Center is to promote the academic achievement, retention and successful graduation of underrepresented minority, first generation and economically disadvantaged students by:

- Providing a proven combination of both academic support and mentoring - empowering students with the tools and skills for successful life-long learning
- Creating cohorts of learning communities that embrace diversity, cultivate academic excellence and foster collaboration and support

**WHY IS THE IC A NATIONAL MODEL OF SUCCESS?**

Our graduates are Doctors, Dentists, Pharmacists, Lawyers, Scientists and National Leaders in their fields and they credit their UW success to the support of the Instructional Center. No matter what major our students pursue, the IC is the ‘difference without the difference’; an academic center where Instructors and Tutors are invested in student success.

“We see the potential in students who have faced adversity. We are here to provide a home away from home.”

Emile Pitre
Former IC Director 1982-2002

“I could never forget the support I received. The IC is the best support system I have. Instructors listen to me and this is where I feel that I belong.”

Bao N., B.S., Biology
(Molecular, Cellular & Developmental)
LIFE AT THE IC TODAY

Gordon M., credits his academic success to the Instructional Center (IC). Like many of the IC’s more than 2,000 users, Gordon was overwhelmed to find himself on a campus with 50,000 students and underprepared for the competitive nature of his first year courses. He began utilizing the tutoring and instructional support as a freshman and quickly began to make the grade. Soon after, he began volunteering as a tutor to share his knowledge with his peers and set an example of giving back. These tutors work closely with IC instructors to create the close-knit learning community recognized by IC alumni as the hallmark of their experience.

What makes this learning community special to Gordon is the sense of belonging and responsibility from working closely with other students who attend his biology and chemistry workshops. The inspiration and guidance he received from IC instructors gave him the confidence to succeed in the classroom and allowed him to step into a leadership role as a tutor.

Our instructors are what make the IC a unique national model for academic instruction. For the past several years, universities from around the country have been visiting and studying the success of the IC to set up similar models at their own institutions.

What continues to set the IC apart from its peers is the 40+ years of support it has provided for students like Gordon and a dedicated staff with an average tenure of 10+ years. The IC’s legacy endures, and with your support, we will help thousands more students attain academic excellence and persist to graduation.

THE FUTURE OF THE IC

To serve the current student demand and position the University to meet the surging demographic growth of low-income, minority and first generation students in the state of Washington, we have set an ambitious goal to increase the number of students we can annually serve at the IC from 2,000 to 7,000 by 2025 with an endowment goal of $25 million.

By positioning ourselves to support this growing population, the UW will:
- Meet and exceed the educational needs of our region
- Create an educated and diverse workforce for Washington and the world
- Promote social mobility for generations to come

“There is nothing more impactful and more successful than the Instructional Center.”

Dr. Roy P. Diaz, Ph.D, JD, Senior Counsel, L’Oréal USA, IC Alumni

LEARN MORE

giving.uw.edu/InstructionalCenter
www.washington.edu/omad/advancement/instructional-center/

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