

Phillips Academy  
**ANDOVER**  
**Frequently Asked Questions**

**Academic Skills Center (ASC)**

**Q: Where are you located?**

A: We are in Pearson Hall, on the first floor. Pearson Hall is directly across from Oliver Wendell Holmes Library and Paresky Commons, and next to Morse Hall. We are open from 9am-6pm Monday-Thursday and from 9am-3:30pm on Fridays.

**Q: What is the purpose of academic support?**

A: At the Academy's Academic Skills Center (ASC), specialists meet with students individually and in small groups to teach strategies for organizing work, managing time, and improving study skills using effective learning strategies. The purpose of this support is to assist students who experience difficulty with their academic performance due to diagnosed learning disabilities, gaps in academic skills, and/or difficulty with executive functioning and self-management. This support is designed to be transitional in nature and is skill-based (not content-based).

**Q: How do students connect with the ASC?**

A: Students may be referred to the ASC by their families, instructors, cluster deans, or they may self-refer by completing a meeting request form through the Academic Skills Canvas homepage or just walking into the space in Pearson Hall. It is important to note that while we might meet with students who are referred by their core team or full team, the student themselves must be willing to engage and practice strategies that we offer.

We will offer one meeting to any student who requests a meeting and then determine the need and frequency for follow-up meetings. We will also schedule weekly meetings with students who need additional support (as evidenced by not turning in work, poor attendance, low grades, diagnosed learning disabilities, a recommendation from an instructor or core/full team, or other demonstrated challenges).

**Q: How many times a week may a student visit the ASC, and how long are the sessions?**

A: Meetings are generally once or twice per week for 30 minutes.

**Q: What if my child needs more than two sessions per week?**

A: Andover's ASC support is meant to be transitional, not remedial. We expect students will develop skills such that they no longer require ASC support. We can also help refer students to other support services on campus, including peer tutoring, conference periods, evening study centers, and the Writing Center.

**Q: When are sessions scheduled?**

A: During a student's free period during the school day, or after classes.

**Q: Is support offered one-on-one or in a small group?**

**A:** Both. Most frequently, we meet with students 1:1, but we also provide workshops such as “Performing Under Pressure” in the evenings.

**Q: Is there an additional fee for using the ASC?**

**A:** No. The ASC is one of several support resources available to students at no additional charge.

**Q: Are meetings with ASC specialists required?**

**A:** Sometimes. During the course of a year, a student’s team may determine that ASC support is necessary for a period of time. Families may not require that we meet with their child. It is important to note that while we meet with students who are referred by their core or full team, the students themselves must be willing to engage and practice strategies to see progress.

**Q: Does Andover have content/subject-based tutors?**

**A:** We have a Peer Tutor Program for courses in math, sciences and languages. Because the Academy is a residential school, faculty members are available to students during conference periods and some evening study halls. The Academy does not endorse, nor will it make arrangements to support the use of outside tutors. Outside tutors are not allowed to come to campus to meet with students.

**Q: Does the ASC Specialist track the homework in each of a student’s courses?**

**A:** No, students are expected to keep track of their own homework, but ASC Specialists often work with a student to review assignments as posted on Canvas and to help the student prioritize work. We also encourage students to reach out to teachers via email or Canvas or to attend conference periods with questions.

**Q: What are the qualifications of the ASC Specialists?**

**A:** ASC Specialists are experienced working with high school aged students and have specific educational background and skillsets in the areas of learning disabilities, math, writing, reading, or self- management/executive functioning. Some are also instructors.

**Q: How do you match a student with an ASC Specialist?**

**A:** The student’s learning needs are considered a priority when scheduling; however, the logistics of student and specialist availability will also dictate scheduling.

**Q: Are there scheduled study halls for students?**

**A:** Conference Periods are offered two to three times weekly during the class day and provide students with an opportunity to meet with their teachers outside of regular class time for additional support. The Math Study Center, Science Study Center, and Writing Center are open on the evenings before classes. Department faculty members and trained peer tutors are available to assist students at each Center. There are also many designated study spaces on campus. A full list is available on The Hive under Student Support and on our ASC Canvas page (for students).