



A Student's Guide to AI Learning Assistants

When Writing Prompts, Be Clear and Provide Details

The more descriptive you are, the better help you'll get.

- **Example:** "I'm working on derivatives in Calculus I. Could you explain the chain rule and show me how it works with exponential functions?"
- Tell the AI about:
 - Your course level
 - Previous knowledge
 - Specific challenges
 - Teaching style you prefer
 - **Example:** I'm a [YEAR] student in [COURSE]. I understand [CONCEPT A] but struggle with [CONCEPT B]. Would you explain [SPECIFIC TOPIC] in a way that connects to [WHAT I KNOW]?

The Learning Cycle

Learning isn't linear - it's a cycle: question, understand, practice, and review.

- Ask smart questions
 - Start broad, then zoom in
 - Build on previous answers
 - Challenge assumptions
- Get examples that work for you
 - Instead of just asking "explain," try: "Show me how this concept applies to [your interest area]" "Can you explain this like I'm explaining it to a friend?" "What's a real-world example I'd encounter in my daily life?"
 - Go more in depth by using a list of prompts
 - Explain [CONCEPT] at a basic level
 - Show me how it connects to [RELATED CONCEPT]
 - What are common misconceptions?
 - Give me a challenging example that combines these ideas
 - How would you explain this to an expert in the field?
- Practice makes perfect
 - When generating practice problems, get specific
 - **Example:** "Create 3 Calculus problems that:
 - Focus on implicit differentiation
 - Start easy and get harder

- Include a word problem related to Physics
 - Show detailed solutions with explanations at each step"
- Ask AI to:
 - Quiz you on key concepts
 - Point out common misconceptions
 - Guide you through problem-solving

Use AI to Enhance (Not Replace) Your Student Success Center Experience

- The Student Success Center is your home base for academic support.
 - Experienced tutors who know your courses offer one-on-one personalized support
 - Peer-Assisted Study Sessions (PASS) are led by students who've already done well in your classes and facilitate group study opportunities
- Before your tutoring sessions use AI to:
 - Generate questions you want to ask your tutor
 - Create a summary of concepts you're struggling with
 - Identify specific areas where you need clarification
 - Practice preliminary problems to pinpoint trouble spots
 - **Example:** "I have a tutoring session about [TOPIC] tomorrow. Can you help me:
 - List the key concepts I should understand
 - Generate 3-4 specific questions to ask my tutor
 - Identify potential gaps in my understanding of [TOPIC]
 - Create a brief summary of what I think I know so far"
- After your tutoring and PASS session use AI to:
 - Reinforce what you learned
 - Generate practice problems similar to the ones you worked on
 - Create summaries of key points addressed
 - Test your understanding of explained concepts
- Practice timeline
 - Start with AI for initial concept exploration and self-study
 - Attend PASS sessions for peer learning and group practice
 - Visit tutors for in-depth explanations and personalized help on topics you don't understand
 - Use AI to reinforce and practice what you learned
 - Return to instructors, tutors, or PASS leaders with advanced questions

Best Practices

- Do
 - Use AI to prepare for tutoring sessions
 - Share AI-generated practice problems with your study group
 - Use AI to review concepts after tutoring and PASS sessions
 - Create study guides combining tutor and PASS leader insights and AI-generated examples
- Don't
 - Skip tutoring or instructor office hours because you have AI
 - Miss PASS sessions thinking AI is enough
 - Rely solely on AI for complex concepts
 - Forget to verify AI information with your professors or tutors

Important Reminders

- The Student Success Center is staffed by people who
 - Know your professors
 - Understand your course requirements
 - Have taken your classes
 - Want to see you succeed
 - Can provide personalized strategies
- AI is one tool in your learning toolkit – not the whole toolbox
- The Student Success Center offers irreplaceable human expertise and support
- Combine AI practice with human guidance for optimal learning
- Your tutors and PASS leaders are your best resource for course-specific guidance
- When in doubt, visit the Student Success Center

Student Success Center Resources

- How to Book a Tutoring Appointment
 - Visit the [Student Success Center](#)
 - Click the “Make an Appointment” button, login with your Charger credentials
 - Follow the instructions in your dashboard to schedule an appointment
- Where to view the PASS schedule
 - Visit the [Student Success Center](#)
 - Click on PASS in the drop-down menu
 - Click on PASS Schedule
 - Choose your course from the list
- Student Success Center Online Resources
 - Visit the [Student Success Center](#)
 - Click on Student Resources to view handouts on content, study skills, and learning strategies

- Log in to Canvas and click on the Student Success Center course on your dashboard

For more information on AI, check out the [Enhanced Teaching & Learning Center's \(ETLC\) student resources.](#)