Camner Center Lead Tutor Profile: Michael Ortega

Camner Center Lead Tutors are an exceptional asset to the Peer Tutoring program! Providing more hours of availability and assisting with the hiring and training of other peer tutors, our Lead Tutors cover a wide range of subjects and make up a diverse student workforce. Whether hosting review sessions or mentoring new tutors, Lead Tutors provide valuable insights and input to the tutoring program.

Name: Michael Ortega

Major: Neuroscience with minors in Chemistry and Philosophy on the Pre-Law track

Hometown: Miami, FL

Length of time you've been a tutor: Spring 2017 will be my fourth semester.

Courses you tutor: BIL150, BIL160, CHM111, CHM112, PHY205, PSY110, PSY290, PSY291, PSY390, MTH101, MTH107, MTH108, MTH113, MTH130, MTH140, MTH141, MTH151, MTH161, MTH171

Favorite course to tutor: BIL150

Best practices during a tutoring session: Always admit when you're not sure about a topic. Better to look up a concept you're unsure about during a session than teach the wrong material to a student.

Worst practices during a tutoring session: Give the student the answer without making sure they know how to get there on their own.

What do you enjoy most about tutoring: I love that light-bulb moment when a student who has been struggling for a long time sees the material in a different way and everything finally clicks.

Perks of the job: Flexible schedule, really rewarding work, and excellent coworkers!

What you enjoy most about the University of Miami / Camner Center: I most enjoy the opportunities I've taken advantage of. My favorite part of the Camner Center is that, as a resource, it is a one-stop shop for students who are struggling to get back on track. We offer tutoring, note-taking, learning specialist services, extended time on exams, and so much more, all to make sure students have all the tools they need to succeed.

Future plans: After graduating, I plan to attend law school, and train to become a law professor focusing on the ways people with mental illness interact with the criminal justice system, specifically working on steps to end the incarceration and stigmatization of people with mental illness.

UMX Gets A New Look

This past Fall semester, over 2,500 new freshmen and transfer students were privy to a brand new layout and course additions in UMX 100. The new course featured a set of brand new graphics and buttons to assist in the navigation of the course.

Also added to the course was Microsoft Office Sway, a new digital story telling and interactive presentation program. Through colorful and interactive displays, UMX 100 Sway presentations provide students with access to content from various campus departments that is easy to read both on a desktop and on the go!

UMX 100 is a mandatory graded zero-credit course designed to expose new students to university traditions, resources, opportunities, and more. Students have the entire semester to complete the course, but are encouraged to complete all course work earlier in the semester to gain an understanding of all that the University of Miami has to offer.

Each academic year, the UMX 100 team gathers feedback from students enrolled in the course and conducts focus group sessions to make course improvements for future semesters.

Interested in learning more about how UMX is created or providing input on how it can continue to be improved for future semesters?

Follow us on Instagram for behind the scenes footage and to learn about upcoming UMX focus group sessions.

Interested in stepping outside of the box and putting a new spin on class presentations? Try Sway out for yourself! All students can gain access via Office 365 which includes access to other Microsoft applications such as Skype and OneDrive.
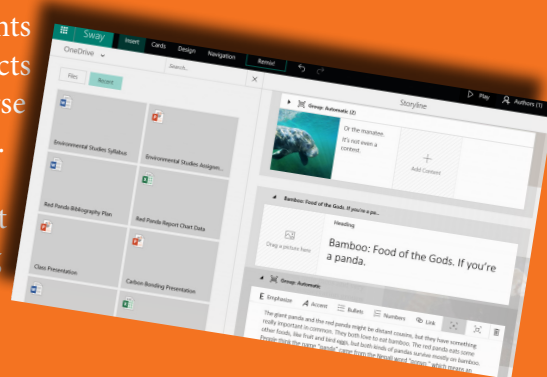
Schedule Free Tutoring Now!

University Center 2400
Mon - Fri 9 AM - 5 PM

Richter Library 1st fl
Mon - Thur 5 PM - 10 PM

1. Go to **http://umiami.gradesfirst.com** use your CANEID and Password to login.
2. Select **"Schedule Tutor Appt."** next to the course(s) you would like tutoring for.
3. Click on the **"Choose a Location"** drop down and select the location desired.
4. Look through multiple days and select "Open" slot that best fits your schedule.

TUTORING
Services

Time Management Tips

Graduate Assistant, Madeleine Lowe, provides best practices for remaining organized!

SOURCE

Commit to using an organizational tool.

The Camner Center provides FREE academic planners. Consider using Outlook or Google calendars.

Make a daily to-do list.

Complete most important tasks first. Use your organizational tool to block out enough hours to study each week.

Eliminate distractions.

Turn off electronic devices or turn your phone to "Do Not Disturb." Find a quiet place to study without distractions. Room too quiet? Try listening to classical music (without words). Set up your DVR to record your favorite show to watch later.

Stick to a plan.

Sticking to a study plan will help you stay on top of your course work. Plan time wisely by avoiding conflicts in your schedule.

Don't procrastinate.

Waiting until the last minute will cause unwanted stress. Breakdown your studying into small manageable pieces. Retaining information decreases the more you cram. Get excited about the small victories! Make up your own rewards once you've completed a certain task.

If you are interested in more academic success tips, visit our website, www.umarc.miami.edu or schedule a Learning Specialist appointment.

Madeleine Lowe
Higher Education Administration
M.S.Ed. Candidate
Class of 2017

Camner Center Tutors Get Certified!

Tutor, Elliot Sackman, is pictured above receiving his CRLA certificate after finishing up online training.

This past semester, 25 tutors received CRLA Certification. The College Reading and Learning Association (CRLA), is an international organization that provides tutors' with an opportunity to expand their skill set and knowledge through various trainings and evaluations. Tutors that wish to complete certification must have tutored for 25 hours, attend various academic workshops and trainings, and must be evaluated during a tutoring session. Once certified, tutors are equipped with standard tutor instructional methods and a better understanding of the learning process. CRLA certification is recognized internationally and makes Camner Center tutors more than qualified to meet the needs of a diverse group of students. For more information about CRLA Certification, please visit www.umarc.miami.edu/arc/be-a-tutor.html.

News & Events

UMX 100 Spring 2017

Course term is Jan. 1st - May. 10th

Tutoring Begins January 30th

Now Accepting Tutoring Requests via umiami.gradesfirst.com.

Deadlines for ODS

Dec. 1st: Last day to request accommodations for the Spring semester.

Feb. 1st: Last day to request notes for the Spring 2017 semester.

April 14th: Last day to schedule a final exam for the Spring 2017 semester.

June 1st: Last day to request accommodations for the Fall semester.

*Accommodations for summer and intersession courses must be submitted 6 weeks prior to the first day of classes.

Let's Get Social!

@umiamiarc

UM Academic Resource Center

@umiamiarc

Study More Efficiently

Want to make your study sessions more productive?
Try replicating the testing conditions. Modeling your study sessions to look and feel like the real exam will lead to less anxiety and better preparation. Here's how to get started:

1 Gather all necessary materials

- Course syllabus
- Class handouts
- Lecture slides
- Homework/assignments
- Textbook

2 Identify important information

- Create a list of questions
- Mirror the format of the exam (e.g., short answer, essays)

3 Test yourself

- Answer your guide questions until the recall becomes easy
- Create flashcards for more practice and review them often

Why self-testing works: it takes effort! The harder you work to retrieve information, the more it will be retained. This benefit is long-term, while the benefits of cramming can only be short-term.

This information is adapted from *Make it Stick (Brown, Roediger, and McDaniel, 2014)* and *10 Steps to Earning Awesome Grades (While Studying Less) (Frank, 2014)*.