

## OUR GOALS

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Provide linguistically diverse students with expert academic support

Promote a community culture that emphasizes sharing ideas and continuous learning about educating diverse students

Facilitate understanding of second language acquisition, cultural adaptation, and awareness of practices that support academic success of diverse students

Provide professional development to faculty and academic support services to enhance their ability to effectively work with diverse students

# OFFICE FOR MULTILINGUAL STUDENT SUCCESS

## OUR MISSION

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To foster an environment in which diverse students are supported in a respectful, knowledgeable, and inclusive manner



## FQAs

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### What university office is dedicated to working with linguistically diverse students?

The Office for Multilingual Student Success, located in Room 203 in Franco Library. The Office provides resources for faculty & staff and for students.

For faculty and staff:

- Blackboard organization LINGUISTICALLY DIVERSE STUDENTS. The link shows on your Bb home page. Contact Dr. Lawrick if you have no access.
- On-demand workshops tailored to your needs. E-mail to [mutiligual.support@alvernia.edu](mailto:mutiligual.support@alvernia.edu)
- Print resources on linguistically diverse students. Contact Dr. Lawrick for suggested reads.

For students, the Office offers academic support directly tailored for their language and cultural needs. The Office supports academic achievement and cultural socialization of diverse students, both internationals and domestic bi-/multilinguals via:

- Mentoring in developing effective study skills
- One-on-one assistance with papers and presentations in flexible formats, incl. face-to-face, video conferencing, and e-mail
- English language learning resources
- Workshops focused on English for academic purposes

### How does the support provided by the Office (LIB 203) differ from the support provided by Academic Success Center (BH 105)?

The Office for Multilingual Student Success specializes in assisting students for whom English is either non-native or one of several languages. We apply a comprehensive approach that emphasizes long-term mentoring in academic studies and cultural aspects of studying in the U.S. university.

### I have a LD student who would benefit from assistance in the Office for Multilingual Student Success. What should I do?

Help the student connect with Dr. Lawrick (e.g., have a conversation about the Office for Multilingual Student Success or send a "conference" e-mail (you, the student, and Dr. Lawrick). She will schedule a meeting with the student to discuss her/his needs, develop a plan, and schedule an appointment. The student can schedule one time or recurring appointments.

### A matriculated student passed English proficiency requirements. Does this mean that the student can handle academic work in English without support?

In most cases, linguistically diverse students need assistance. It takes much longer to develop proficiency in academic English than in social English. It takes even longer to develop a strong ability to write for academic purposes. It is also important to keep in mind that a student's ability to perform in English is susceptible to stress, anxiety, or time constraints. Providing extra time and creating a supportive and non judgmental climate helps to offset these factors.

### Is it appropriate to refer to linguistically diverse students as English language learners?

No it is not. Admission requirements warrant a minimum level of English proficiency sufficient for academic studies at Alvernia. A term English language learner is used in the preK-12 education to refer to students with no or low English proficiency. Furthermore, many domestic bilinguals acquired English from birth or early childhood and demonstrate fluency in spoken English similar to their English-only peers. To refer to linguistically diverse students as English language learners is inaccurate and disrespectful of their identities and educational status.

### I would like to learn more about best practices of teaching diverse students and cultural backgrounds of my international students. Where can I find resources?

The Bb organization LINGUISTICALLY DIVERSE STUDENTS is a digital collection of resources and common space for sharing ideas. All faculty & staff have access to this organization. You can also take advantage of books on teaching & working with international students.

## Contact Us

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Visit us on Bb:  
"Linguistically Diverse Students"  
Bb Organization