

# Student Learning Support

## Fall 2015 Newsletter



[ryerson.ca/sls](http://ryerson.ca/sls)

### Lots of exciting changes in the Test Centre to make your experience better!

Due to increasing demand in the Test Centre, resulting in strain on resources and capacity, the Test Centre has undertaken research to determine how we compare with other Test Centres in Ontario and what we can learn from these other Test Centres to improve our own services. Now we're making changes with a little bit of funding we received and some more space in the basement of the Victoria Building!

Some highlights from what we discovered: In **2014/15**, the Test Centre administered over 17,000 make-up and accommodated tests and exams, this was a 21% increase from the previous academic year. For 2015/16, we are predicting a 20% to 25% increase or 20,426 to 21,278 administered tests and exams. View our [2014-15 Test Centre Report](#) for additional data.

This Fall, we're introducing new procedures and resources to improve the service, quality and integrity of the Test Centre:

- New email and phone for faculty inquiries. Faculty can connect with Test Centre staff by calling ext. **3592** or email [testcentrefaculty@ryerson.ca](mailto:testcentrefaculty@ryerson.ca)
- New pick-up and drop-off desk for test and exams
- Sealed envelopes for all tests and exams
- Daily delivery of tests and exams to Departments
- Hired more invigilators for 2015/16
- New check-in desk for students
- Adding 9 distraction reduced rooms
- More full time administrative support
- New mirrors in testing rooms, bigger windows on test room doors, more daily academic integrity checks to prevent cheating

We look forward to helping you and your students with their tests and exams in 15/16.

### Get Clear New Program Features

**Get Clear** is now a semester-long program designed to help Probationary students develop the academic skills needed to support their journey back to a Clear academic standing. This is achieved through a blend of professional advising and peer-led study, and represents a new, tailored approach to supporting students in academic jeopardy. Please contact [getclear@ryerson.ca](mailto:getclear@ryerson.ca) for more information

#### Connect with SLS

**W:** [ryerson.ca/sls](http://ryerson.ca/sls)  
**T:** (416) 598 - 5978

**E:** [sls@ryerson.ca](mailto:sls@ryerson.ca)  
**@** [@Ryerson\\_SLS](https://twitter.com/Ryerson_SLS)

#### Academic Accommodation Support

Starting in September, our RU-Noted program will be part of the AAS Online Services and no longer available through Blackboard. Students can select a note-taker and access notes from our online system. We've also created a new Faculty Handbook with information on academic accommodation, using our online system, and other resources.

#### English Language Support

Fall programming begins September 21st. We are offering in-person and online appointments for help with written assignments, oral presentations, pronunciation and speaking & listening skills. ELS will also offer the following group sessions: Conversational English, Debating, Advanced-level Listening & Discussion.

#### Graduate Student Support

We are offering graduate-level writing groups, Coffee and Writing, and Discipline-Specific Peer-Review groups. During Fall reading week, we're hosting our 5-day Dissertation Writing Retreat on Toronto Island, and our next Dissertation Camp will be held in Winter 2016.

#### Math Support

We have new online resources for students taking Statistics courses and Finance courses. We developed high definition videos on "How to use Casio fx 9750 calculator" for Statistics students and "How to use their TI BA II Plus calculator" for Finance students. Official launch of these videos will be in September 2015.

#### Study Skills and Transition Support

In partnership with the Faculty of Science, we're offering new Supported Learning Groups (SLGs) for CPS108 and CPS118. All SLG sessions start the week of September 14.

#### Writing Support

This Fall semester, we're piloting Walk n Talk appointments, where students can spend part of their writing session talking through their writing project while walking outside together with the writing consultant.

### Faculty Resources

- Request customized in-class support. [Submit a request online](#) for an in-class academic skill building presentation.
- Refer your students to one of our **workshops**.
- Include us in your syllabus, [download information](#) on SLS programs and support areas from our website.

# SPECIAL SEPTEMBER 2015 EVENTS

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED to our Faculty and Staff Open House



## Tea in the Garden

We are hosting a special Open House for Faculty and Staff on Thursday, September 10, 2pm to 4pm.

This is an opportunity to learn about services and supports available to faculty and staff, and their students through Student Learning Support.

## SLS participates in Orientation 2015

SLS is excited to participate in Illuminate 2015! This is the first year we are hosting orientation activities and events to welcome incoming students. Join us on the 4th floor of the SLC for the following events:



### September 1

11am to 1pm

#### Amazing Race

Join SLS in our Amazing Race for some mind-bending challenges. Fear not, the key is to work as a team!

1:30pm to 3:30pm

#### Picnic in the Garden

We're hosting an Open House for all Ryerson students to picnic in the garden (SLC ,4th floor). Meet new people, relax in the garden or challenge yourself to learn a new skill.

### September 4

4pm to 6 pm

#### Poetry Slam Competition

Orientation goes to the Garden! Ryerson Orientation will host a Poetry Slam in the Writing Hub of Student Learning Support. Join us to share your poetry or support your peers.

### September 8

12:30pm to 2:30pm

#### National Service Dog event on Gould Street

Meet a new furry friend! Service dogs play different roles in our society and provide tremendous help -- meet and learn more about Service dogs, Companion Dogs and Therapy Dogs.

[www.ryerson.ca/SLS](http://www.ryerson.ca/SLS)