

My Ultimate View of Tutoring

Ultimately I did take advantage of the resources provided by the Office of Social Equity, led by Dr. Viverette's awesome team. They provided the following for me:

- Told me every day, U-Can!
- Gave me 104 hours of top-notch tutoring
- Never, ever allowed me to give up or quit
- Saved my Spanish 2001 grade

While I'd earned B's in Spanish 1001 and 1002, I found myself struggling in Spanish 2001. I'd used the Student Success Center for my prior Spanish classes, but for fall semester 2012, my schedule did not allow me to use the tutors available there. I'd seen how much of a lifeline tutoring had been before, so I knew I had to find a new tutoring resource. Enter the Office of Social Equity. I will never forget my first day with my new Spanish tutor, Portia Mathis. It also happened to be her first day on the job. She greeted me by saying, "Hello, I am **Portia Mathis**, and I am the new Spanish tutor. This is my passion, and I love learning and tutoring the Spanish language."

This statement immediately put me at ease, and we began our first tutoring session. This changed the course of my fall semester Spanish class. We met almost every week after that initial session. 104 hours of Spanish tutoring later, I found myself improving and really evolving toward a good understanding. I ended up with a C in the class, but combined with the A's I made in my other 3 classes I still earned a 3.5 GPA and made the Dean's List. I am convinced that without tutoring, I would have failed this course. Portia Mathis was very supportive and demanding of me.

The following are lessons I learned from the process:

- 1) Make the decision to use the resource of tutoring early on if it is something you may need.
- 2) Make sure you go to class and take good notes every day.
- 3) Make sure you do all assigned homework.
- 4) Pay attention to what you learn in both places: class and your tutoring session.
- 5) Never settle for less than doing your best.
- 6) Don't be afraid to fail. If you do, it's not the end of the world.
- 7) Ask fellow classmates for techniques they are using to improve.
- 8) Talk with your professors; they are there for you.
- 9) Do not forget what you learn after a class is over, because this is a building block for the next class.
- 10) Always have a U-Can! Attitude, and practice what you preach.

Basically, it is better to have tutoring if you may need it than to have needed tutoring and never taken advantage of this resource. Tutoring could be the key to your success. Do not wait until the end of the semester, make the right choice now.