

Abby Madsen
Gainesville Virtual Tour: Watkins Building

Here we have the Watkins building; although I often refer to this building as the “math building,” there is so much more that takes place here. Inside, we have the ACTT center which is an acronym that stands for Academic Computing Tutoring and Testing center. The ACTT center is a hub that offers a myriad of resources to students such as free math, chemistry, and physics tutoring — ALL included in tuition which means you receive the tutoring you need at no extra cost. Goodness knows that math is not my thing, so I made good and efficient use of these services when I was enrolled in my math courses. I highly recommend stopping by to get help because these offices are open until 10 pm Monday-Thursday. Believe me, the scariest part is walking in; once you sit down and start working with the tutors, you’ll realize that you have a new support system in your corner. And that’s part of what college is all about.

Moving on to the “C” in ACTT center, when you walk in, you’ll notice rows of desktop computers all connected to color and black-and-white printers. This study space also provides another opportunity to use those 500 pages of free printing that you receive when you become a UNG nighthawk. But let’s say you have an issue with the ACTT center desktop or your personal laptop: not to worry. The UNG IT Helpdesk is located in the ACTT center as well, offering free IT assistance and software downloads such as the Microsoft Office Suite. The IT department helped me reset my UNG password when my computer was acting up, so please be sure to stop by. After all, it is a *free* resource just for you.

I do want to make a quick note that both the tutoring and IT positions are a combination of students and professionals which makes the ACTT center a great place to work. If you’re interested in applying for a job on campus, one of these positions may be a good fit for you.

Okay, now onto the second “T” in ACTT center: testing. In college, when you miss an exam, you may have to make up the test in our secure testing area. In this room, you’ll not only be observed by the front-desk worker, but you’ll also have cameras monitoring you and fellow testers. Since you won’t have your professor in the room as you take your exam, you still work in a secure testing environment. If you need to use this space, your professor will provide the testing materials and any extras allowed (such as a calculator, maybe). You come in, and the front desk worker will set you up. Easy as that!

Speaking of front desk, since this is a commuter campus, we understand that mistakes happen and people run out the door without their textbooks. No worries! That’s why we offer one-day textbook and calculator rentals at the ACTT front desk. Just keep in mind that these textbooks only pertain to math and certain sciences...so please make sure you don’t leave your English or History textbooks at home.

Even though I’m an English major, and math is certainly not my thing, this building does have a special place in my heart because this is where I met my husband. I had no idea that the place where I worked for hours on math homework would become one of the sweetest places to me. College is like that — full of surprises — so keep that in mind as you continue your tour.

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