

What to Say When Students Ask About DAACS

What is DAACS?

DAACS is a resource designed to support you in college. It provides information about your strengths, things that might be holding you back, and ways to become a better student. Your PACE faculty and success coaches/MECs will also have access to your results so they can support you. The first step is to complete the four assessments, so DAACS can provide feedback that is best catered to *you*.

(See the "DAACS Intro" job aid for more information you might share with your students.)

What is the DAACS research study?

UMGC is one of three institutions participating in a study that examines the effects of DAACS on student success. We predict that students who use DAACS will get better grades, earn more credits, and be retained more than those who do not. To test these hypotheses, half of the incoming students this year will be randomly selected to use DAACS, and half will not. Your PACE instructors, coaches, and coordinators have learned about it and are ready to use DAACS with you.

(See the "Research side of DAACS" job aid for more information you might share with your students.)

Why do I have to be in the study?

Your participation in this study is voluntary. This means you can choose to opt-out, which would mean that your information would not be collected for the purpose of this study. However, DAACS is part of a PACE 111 assignment, so you will still be required to use it and your success coaches/MECs will also use it to support you in college. Opting out of the study means not allowing the research team to include your data in their analysis: It doesn't mean not using DAACS, which is still required.

(See the "Research side of DAACS" job aid for more information you might share with your students.)

Why is my friend, who is also starting UMG, not required to use DAACS, but I am?

To examine the effectiveness of DAACS, half of the incoming students this year are randomly assigned to use DAACS, and half are not. You have been assigned to the DAACS group, and your friend has been assigned to the other group. Although your friend will not use DAACS this year, they will have access to DAACS next year once this study is complete.

(See the "Research side of DAACS" job aid for more information you might share with your students.)

Is it okay to share and talk with my peers about DAACS?

Yes, but just for this academic year (2022-2023), please talk about DAACS only with peers you know are also required to use DAACS. Next year, when the study is complete, we welcome and encourage all students to use and talk with each other about DAACS.

(See the "Research side of DAACS" job aid for more information you might share with your students.)

I completed all four assessments. Now what?

Kudos for completing all four assessments! By doing so, you have unlocked a collection of feedback and resources that cater to you and your needs. Here are a couple of next steps you might take:

- Review your DAACS Summary Report and identify the strengths you'd like to leverage for this semester.
- Review your DAACS Summary Report and select areas where you want to grow. Identify the recommended strategies that will assist you in doing so. Commit to them for a couple of weeks and monitor your progress.
- Visit umgc.daacs.net for a more in-depth discussion of your strengths, areas that might be holding you back, and a list of recommended strategies and resources.
- Set up a meeting with your success coach/MEC to discuss your DAACS Summary Report in more detail and make a plan based on it.