Peer-Led Team Learning (PLTL) is modeled after Florida International University’s program and designed to enhance student performance in science and mathematics by increasing the exposure of course materials. PLTL sessions are designed to explore different problem-solving techniques, encourage active learning, and to promote an environment of teamwork. A Peer Academic Leader (PAL) who has successfully completed the course facilitates sessions and may review some aspects of the material covered in class, but the dynamics of discussions are centered on problem solving techniques and collaborative learning.

PLTL sessions run weekly for ninety minutes from the second week through the fifteenth week of classes for fall and spring terms. Only students enrolled in a class that offers PLTL can sign-up for its respective PLTL sessions.

**PLTL Point System**

Each week, Peer Academic Leaders (PALs) facilitating the sessions will grant a maximum of 20 points based on the following breakdown:

- **5 points - Readiness assessment** (mini-quiz): This is taken at the beginning of each session and serves as a five-minute warm-up. One point is earned for each correct readiness question.
- **5 points - Preparation/Homework**: Points are earned only if student bring their notes and textbook. PowerPoint slides can be used for notes, but will not count for the textbook.
- **10 points - Contribution**: These points are assessed by the PAL based on the following:
  - 0 Points: The student is not prepared and/or does not participate during discussions.
  - 5 Points: The student makes some contributions to discussions.
  - 10 Points: The student makes substantial contributions to discussions.

Students doing work for another course during PLTL sessions, including labs for the course will get an automatic “0” for contribution.

Students who attended 100% of the sessions and earned a grade in each session are eligible to drop the lowest PLTL grade. If the student successfully completes PLTL with a C letter grade or better, then the PLTL grade will be calculated into the course grade as per the Instructor’s syllabus. Generally, PLTL grading is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90 - 100</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80 - 90</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70 - 80</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please note that faculty maintain the right to override the grade range for PLTL.
Attendance

Once students sign-up for their selected PLTL session, they must continue to attend the same session for the remaining term. Students may not switch sessions once the sign-up period closes and must attend the first session to be considered officially enrolled. PALs will have a roster with the list of students that signed up for the session to ensure the correct students are attending. Three or more unexcused/ineligible absences will result in students being dropped from PLTL.

Students are allowed one make-up session per term for the following reasons:
- Hospitalization
- Injuries/sickness resulting in a doctor's visit.
- Death in the immediate family
- Jury duty
- Car accident

Only students with valid documentation for the absence will be granted authorization to make-up a session. If the aforementioned reasons apply, students must be able to make up the session within the same week (if available). For example, if PLTL sessions for the course are offered Tuesdays and Thursdays and a student unexpectedly misses Thursday, he or she cannot make it up. Students that are eligible to obtain authorization to make-up a session must notify the PLTL Coordinator (Uyen Le) immediately at 305-237-3175 or visit room 1501 between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm, M-F.

Tardiness

Students are required to arrive on time to complete the readiness assessment, which is issued at the start of the session and collected exactly after five minutes into the session. For example, if a session begins at 8:00 a.m., the readiness assessment will be collected at 8:05 a.m.

Students that arrive after the readiness assessment has been collected will earn a grade of "0" points for the entire session.

Leaving Early

Students that leave sessions early will receive "0" points for the day. If the reason for leaving early is excusable, the student may opt to attend their one time make-up session to obtain full credit. Authorization from the PLTL Coordinator to make-up the session is required.

PLTL Ethics and Behavior

To create a positive learning environment for PLTL, students are expected to engage in collaborative, collegial behavior. Cheating in any fashion will not be tolerated, including, but not limited to, copying during readiness assessment and falsifying records to obtain a make-up session. Students suspected of cheating or any other acts of academic dishonesty (as outlined in MDC College Procedure 4071), at the very least, will receive "0" for the readiness assessment and may be subject to procedural due process (as outlined in MDC College Procedure 4074).