**Tutors in MESA**

**When are tutors available?** MESA tutors are available most of the hours that the MESA center is open. Tutors work “first-come-first-serve”; appointments are not made. All tutors do try to serve as many students as they can, and may not stay exclusively with you if there are other students who want their help.

**Who are the MESA tutors?** Most are current MC students who have completed and done well in core math, science of engineering courses. They have also gotten a recommendation from a faculty member to be a MESA tutor. They applied for the position and were selected. Prior to beginning as a tutor they completed a course on tutoring, and attended a MESA tutor training session.

All MESA tutors want to help you. Still, they are novice instructors, and may not have all the knowledge, strategies, skills and experience that they would like to have. Like you, they are developing a deeper understanding of the material, and as tutors, are developing teaching skills, which is a great opportunity for them.

**How can MESA tutors help me learn?** The best answer is regularly and often. Most students assume they should only use a tutor when they do not know how to complete a problem, or do not understand a topic. Those are good times to use a tutor to help you learn, but not the only times.

Good students know that the process of putting their ideas into words is an excellent way to reinforce understanding and to increase long term retention of the material. For that reason, even if you feel you know how to work the problem, or know the material well, it is wise to sit with a tutor and explain to him or her just what you do know. Talk with them about how you did the problem, show them your work, and ask them if that is how they would do it. Explain to them how you understand the topic you are studying, or what the principle means in your own words. This process of taking your ideas and turning them into words changes the way you store and can retrieve the knowledge you are developing.