Challenges in Academic Support: Insights into Existing Gaps

Needfinding Report

slidesmania.com

Meet the Team!



Jennifer Lew ('26)
Computer Science (AI)
Palos Verdes, CA



Alex Yansouni ('26)
Computer Science (HCI)
Los Altos, CA



Meghana Paturu ('26)
Computer Science (HCI) &
Economics
Belle Mead, NJ



Jonah Blaydes-Greenberg
('26)
Computer Science (HCI) &
Music
Los Altos, CA

Domain Selection

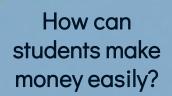


How can we make learning and getting help easier and more efficient + accessible?



What are the academic struggles we face?

College-Focused
Academic
Support





Guiding Questions

What challenges do you face when trying to get help from teaching assistants (TAs) or professors?

virtual office hours)?

How effective were online platforms provided by the school for getting academic help (e.g., discussion boards,

Instead of limiting AI usage in academic environments, how can AI be leveraged to enhance and empower learning? How well do the school's support services align with your learning needs?

What and how is the process and effects of becoming a TA/Tutor?

Finding Participants

Range of Student Ages: High School, College, Master's/TA

Within and Beyond the Stanford Community

Diversity of Academic Backgrounds (Different Majors/Minors) Variety of Schooling Systems:
Homeschool, Community
College, State School, Private
Schools

We talked to...









"Grace Hopper" Community College Pre-Law Junior Los Angeles, CA

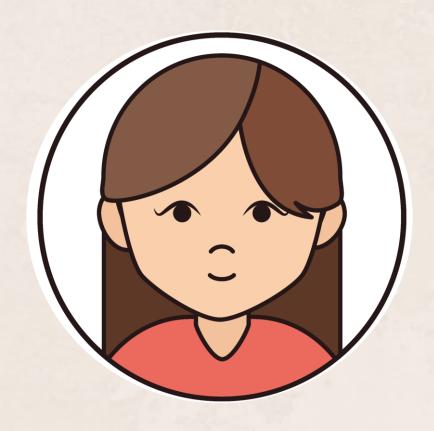
"Donald Knuth" Private College **Business Major** Junior Bay Area, CA

"Alan Turing" Bay Area, CA

"Ada Lovelace" Highschool Senior Full Time TA + EdTech Researcher Portland, OR

"Margaret Hamilton" Pre-Med & Student-Athlete Junior Las Vegas, NV

"Ada Lovelace"



- In-person interview at Coupa Cafe, Voice Memo
- Female (23), Full-Time Teaching Assistant and EdTech/NLP Researcher
- "Stanford's TA system is I would say super intense, selective, and kind of a long process. It sucks how some of the most qualified people, like a few of my genius friends, get overlooked just because they don't fit the tunnel vision of what is considered to be a good tutor. And for the most part, they just do not want to reapply or go through that lengthy process anymore."

THINKS

never thought I would be this invested in Al especially considering that I did not even come into Stanford even considering Computer Science as my major. However, now I am convinced it is the key to completely changing how

'Stanford's TA system is I would say super intense elective, and kind of a long process. It sucks how some of the most qualified people. like a few of my genius friends, get verlooked just because they don't fit the tunnel vision of what is considered to be a good tutor. And for the most part, they just do not want to reapply or go through that lengthy process

We need to speed up the TA onboarding process. It's way too long and honestly feels kind of pretty biased at times. was rejected 3 times before actually getting my position.

Takes on additional section-leading roles and extra office hours beyond their required workload.

Fine-tunes Al models to align with specific curriculum needs such as measuring quality of math explanation in novice tutors.

"Honestly, I love when students throw super tough questions at me. I feel like I never forget those moments, and they definitely stand out when I am teaching... in a positive

"Teachers who teach the same class/subject for like 7 years often show their stagnant, and they do not

"I didn't expect AI to play such a huge role in education, and I believe there is a new, up and running space in the Education Technology field that involves practicing how to teach."

"It's crazy how there's almost no personal coaching in education. We expect people to just figure it out how to be a tutor and follow a start, but that's not enough."

always goes off initial esson plans she prepared prior to section times to account the specific, spontaneous needs of the

Identifies gaps in persona coaching for educators and works to address them through her

Experiments with Alpowered tutors, such as LLMs, in a traditional classroom setting.

"Section-leading totally changed my perspective in how I view the other side of being in the classroom. It's genuinely super challenging, and made me realize there's so much room for research and improvement in how we actually teach."

'Talking to students who are struggling is actually way more eye-opening than the ones who get it right away."

Honestly, I prefer someone who is more energetic more engaging than someone who may be 30%

Even though Al platforms like ChatGPT go through the whole internet in order to respond to a prompt/ question, there is something about inperson help/tutoring tha makes me prefer it more and I am more engaged.

Analyzes classroom interactions with NLP to find patterns in student behavior, and uses these findings to improve her methods.

Encourages students to take on peer-teaching roles during her sections, fostering a collaborative learning environment.

sessions as real-life examples for her research at Education Tech lab as they were very applicable

All has the potential to revolutionize education particularly in areas like tutoring and feedback.

Traditional tutoring systems can be inefficient and could benefit from Al "Teaching has forced me integration to streamline to understand material in processes, especially for ways I never would have people who want to just by studying it. It's like, practice teaching. you don't really get it until you explain it out loud and

understand this so much

Uses challenging student questions as a way to explore new and complex ideas on how to approach teaching as opposed to making her feel bad about

"In a way, it blows my

mind that we don't really

measure how good tutor

standardized manner. It's

this topic interests me as

trying to figure out how to

kind of subjective, and

per my research. Lam

you're like wait I kind of

make that a thing."

explanations are in a

Adjusts the pace of her teaching style based on noticing the expressions of quieter students. Makes plenty of assumptions and tries to read the room as much as possible while teaching.

Used her in-person TA

relates toward students she was in their place exactly a few years ago.

making personal and improving their learning experiences.

Redo all the PSETs, dedication to her

Empathetic and definitely who struggle because she totally understands when

Finds joy and fulfillment in connections with students

Exams, and attend/watch lectures on her own time, even when not required to be able to give her 100%

complement traditional teaching methods without losing the personal touch.

Frustrated and confused by some of the inefficiencies in the TA onboarding process. particularly how it can exclude qualified candidates like her

Thinks that rigorous

onboarding for TAs

tutor performance,

qualitative and

especially novice tutors,

requires more nuanced

metrics that include both

More research is needed

into how Al can

quantitative aspects

ensures high quality, but

simultaneously excludes

other talented individuals

who may just not fit in the

friends.

Appreciates and is very thankful for the opportunity to teach as she feels like she herself has grown as a person and learned a lot about

Feels like teaching is not a working job, but rather a true fun activity where she can interact with people!

There is untapped potential for improving how tutors are evaluated especially through quantitative feedback mechanisms.

education where personal coaching is lacking, which can hinder the growth of aspiring teachers.

Effective teaching requires both strong interpersonal skills and the ability to deeply understand the subject matter. Being enthusiastic is equally as important to consider as knowledge.

Excited by the possibilities that Al and NLP bring to improving education.

Feels a sense of esponsibility to ensure that education is accessible and effective for all students, regardless of background.

Very confused why people are not given support and resources to become a teacher, and likely thinks this is unfair.

Implementing LLMs and NLP in education can enhance teaching, but human factors like empathy and engagement are nontheless irreplaceable.

Learning how to teach and communicate with students can lead to an alternative perspective in education that can often lead to self-growth.

The onboarding process for TAs should be improved to be more efficient without losing its ability to filter for quality.

Motivated by the challenge of integrating AI into teaching, as she sees it as a way to drive educational innovation in

Feels validated when students make progress and when feedback helps them improve their teaching methods.

Likely Hopeful that with increased access to free Al integration, more and more people can easily become qualified and great tutors.

Very confused why people are not given support and resources to become a teacher, and likely thinks this is unfair.

mpaturu

Thinks that rigorous onboarding for TAs ensures high quality, but simultaneously excludes other talented individuals who may just not fit in the right box.

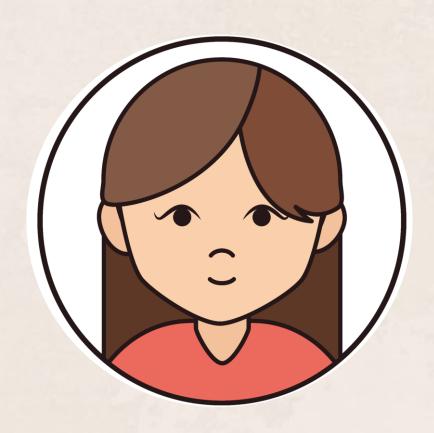
mpaturu

"We need to speed up the TA onboarding process. It's way too long and honestly feels kind of pretty biased at times. I was rejected 3 times before actually getting my position."

mpaturu



"Ada Lovelace"



Insights:

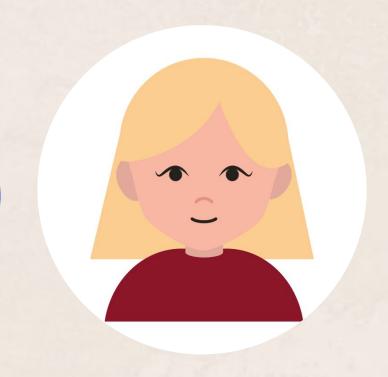
- Though comprehensive and does a good job, the process to become a Teaching Assistant at Stanford is very long and lengthy - many interested tutors/TAs end up giving up.

 Very few efficient resources for tutors to learn how to teach well and properly.

- Efficient system/unbiased way to hire tutors faster and quickly.

 More accessible educational/evaluators
- platforms to teach tutors how to be good teachers (AI can potentially be a solution!)

"Margaret Hamilton"



- In-person interview at coffee shop, Voice Memo
- Female (21), Student-Athlete, Pre-Med, Human Biology Major
 (Home-Schooled prior to Northwestern)
- "Sometimes finding help was too hard, or they did not have enough time/space to give me the help I needed especially with my rigid practice schedules. At one point, I remember giving up on an assignment and turned it in unfinished."

THINKS

Despite tutoring being encouraged and it is free, I feel like there is still stigma with being seen at office hours all the time. Looks like I do not know the content well, and kind of because of that."

I wish athletes had more accessible resources to work around their very busy schedules. They offer tutoring specialized for athletes, but these are all group sessions, and the TA for the most part do not know what they are doing at all."

I wish there was more personalized one-on-one tutoring. No matter how many review sessions I go to, sometimes I wish someone could just understand what I need help with and explain accordingly."

20 hours a week of practice! That's an insane time commitment especially

Switching schools almost 8 times prior to coming to Northwestern (potentially impacted how she adjusted to college life especially learning that homeschool was her most recent education before moving to Illinois)

Use meditation and mindfulness apps in order to help cope with stress and feelings of being overwhelmed, stressed, anxious, etc.

"I train 20 hours a week and our practice times often conflict with office hours. I can't make it to these sessions so I end up having to spend more time as opposed to getting help in a faster way."

I know we have free tutoring services on campus, but they take so long to schedule. Some of these places don't start offering tutoring until week 3 and that's when we already have midterms. Then what?"

I wish there was more flexibility in terms of figuring out the schedule for tutoring.

I very much value my and teammates for their over the past half of college, and am ready to try out these new ways

this year."

Stavs up till 3am catching up on work, and still has to wake up 3 hours later at 6 in the morning for practice. Pulled several all-nighters.

Integrated technology. time-management apps to help with studying. ChatGPT account offers immediate answers to her urging questions while doing Problem Sets.

Organized study groups consisting of athletes and nonathletes for difficult courses → learned the most from discussing and talking content over with her peers.

"Chemistry is such a complex and difficult subject... in a big lecture hall, it's hard to get that one-on-one help that you really need, and many people have struggled with big classes like this."

You are not the same as everyone else on this campus. It's about taking care of yourself and putting your needs first above all.

"It's all just a journey of finding what works best for you and what doesn't, and it sucks that I kind of had to find out the hard

Sometimes finding help

was too hard, or they did

space to give me the help!

needed especially with my

rigid practice schedules.

At one point, I remember

assignment and turned it

There needs to be more

information about these

campus. In my first year

most of the frosh didn't

even know they existed:

accessibility and

tutoring places on

giving up on an

in unfinished."

not have enough time/

It's hard when you feel like you're a little behind and you're constantly playing catch-up, whether studying by yourself or needing help from someone else.

Switched her major from Biology, to Psychology, to Human Biology now on the Pre-Med Track.

Sought mental health counseling for stress management, especially in times of peak sports

Thinks about how she can be more efficient with her time that she can better balance her workload and practice schedule.

Am I falling behind my peers because of how much time I am dedicating to something else while they are using that time toward studying for classes?

Exhausted and sometime

facing burn out from

academics, and finding

enough time for rest and

Sometimes may feel

falling behind in her

classes and other

insecure about maybe

classmates sometimes

judging her and her ways

juggling sports,

studying

Adapting to a new training with Higher Demands and completely new training schedule → completely new start to Junior Year

Relied heavily on caffeine and energy drinks to stav awake during classes and remain alert through the day.

> Started mealprepping to save time.

Am I the only one who feels like I have to constantly play catch-up or are other students struggling too?

Balancing sports and academics is getting harder each year despite learning from my mistakes. I need a better system in order for this to not affect my grades.

What more can I do to

take full advantage of the

resources available at

Northwestern?

My sport has always been a big part of my life, but maybe it's time to shift my goals more toward my academics and my aspirations in becoming a doctor.

New study habits can I try

intensity really helping me

adding more pressure to

my already full plate?

improve, or is it just

to make learning more

enjoyable and less

stressful?

Often feels embarrassed to go to office hours because does not want to be judged by her peers.

receiving the help she needs, and does not have a quick alternative

Sometimes frustrated that

Confident going into this

new year because she has

learned from her mistakes.

and knows exactly what

and athletics wise moving

she needs academically

forward.

her strict schedule

prevents her from

Grateful for the support system and peers she has met and cultivated on

Nostalgic seeing how far she has come from being home-schooled to now being able to succeed in very challenging Pre-med

Motivated to push herself harder with a new coach and in her new coursework

Even though academics can be very challenging, I am very excited to learn more about biology and psychology and continue expanding my horizons.

I know I need personalized help, but how can I get it when almost everything is geared toward group learning?

What are some creative ways I can better integrate my sport commitments with my academic schedule?

Optimistic that with the lessons that she has learned in the past, she can have a stronger academic performance this upcoming year.

Overwhelmed having to balance academics and athletics, especially when falling behind when traveling for meets and competitions.

Anxious about keeping up with her difficult classes, planning to apply to med school and take the MCAT while maintaining her athletic and other extracurricular commitments.

"Despite tutoring being encourage and it is free, I feel like there is still stigma with being seen at office hours all the time. Looks like I do not know the content well, and kind of feel embarrassed to go because of that."

mpaturu

"I very much value my upperclassmen friends and teammates for their quidance. I learned a lot over the past half of college, and am ready to try out these new ways this year."

Overwhelmed having to balance academics and athletics, especially when falling behind when traveling for meets and competitions.

mpaturu

mpaturu

Organized study groups consisting of athletes and nonathletes for difficult courses → learned the most from discussing and talking content over with his peers.

mpaturu



"Margaret Hamilton"



Insights:

- Group tutoring and generalized support systems often don't meet his specific needs as a student-athlete → feelings of isolation in both academics and sports.
- Rigid practice schedule prevents getting help → hopelessness

- More personalized academic support tailored to student-athletes, such as flexible one-on-one tutoring or mentoring programs that accommodate tight practice schedules.
- Time-efficient, structured system to help him better integrate academic and athletic responsibilities.

"Grace Hopper"



- Zoom interview
- Female College Student, 20
- Pre-law
- Previously attended UCSC, community college, USC
- "I'm concerned if the TAs can actually help me with my classes given how many students there are in each class."

the TA

help from other students

minute help impossible to find"

helpful for exams, they

only know about the

general subject"

up and figure it out

"The TAs don't have a deep understanding of whats going on in

"UCSC didn't hold m

compared to USC

hand as much

SAYS

"It takes a lot of effort to find help at UCSC"

Getting help takes so much effort, and sometimes it feels like I'm

THINKS

I should just push through on my own instead of trusting the system to help

What's the point

tutoring or office

hours when no

asking for help

from students

of going to

The TA isn't going to be useful when they haven't even taken this class

I'll probably get better help from who've taken th class before

Why bother seeking help if the TA doesn't even understand the material

I don't think the effort of reachin out for support will be worth it

better than I do Why aren't there

It's easier to just figure it out on m own than to rely on the TA or

Reaching out for support makes me feel like I'm

from the

academic suppor

more reliable TAs

that have actually

taken the course?

admitting I can' handle things.

I need help, but asking for it feels like I'm losing control over the

attend office

Unmotivated to hours or tutoring centers due to prior unhelpful experiences.

Insecure about their academic abilities but vulnerability by seeking help.

that it doesn't cater to their Discouraged by the lack of quick

last-minute help, leaving them feeling stranded when deadlines

Anxious about the prospect of seeking help, especially if it means interacting with professors or waiting in long lines.

Anxious about appearing

incapable in front of professors or

peers when asking for assistance

Distrustful of TA and tutoring services due to previous negative experiences.

Frustrated by the lack of

knowledgeable support.

Always has to ask

Reached out

repeatedly for

course help and

proper assistance

Feels alienated from school community and structures

Feels like it feels awkward reaching out for help when taking online classes and not knowing professor or TAs

Disappointed in the quality of support from TAs, making it harder to feel confident during

in community college who are looking to make money

multiple time before

and gotten no

response'

I would definitely use a lot of help, and there is nowhere near students who have aken the class before enough time for them with the TAs"

Has never reached out for help at El Camino Community College

Never utilized tutoring services at school outside of TAs

perceived as

Asks students

considered and

"smart" for help

known to be

incapable

assignments despite anti-Al usage policies

Uses Al for

Only felt the need to get help for STEM subjects professors due to

Hesitates to walk into tutoring centers and trusting someone to actually be

able to help

Forgets that assistance for classes other than TAs even exists in the first

DOES

Doesn't bother

approaching

professor after

class due to long

line of students

TAs to elaborate during one on one sessions

What's the point of going to tutoring or office hours when no one understands what I need?

"There's a lot of smart

low income students

in community college

who are looking to

make money"

"I prefer help from other students the most"

Discouraged by the lack of quick, last-minute help, leaving them feeling stranded when deadlines approach.

slidesmania.com

"Grace Hopper"



Insights:

- Unsatisfied with quality of TA's and their qualifications to assist with course material
- Hard to get longer one on one sessions given so many students at bigger schools/institutions.

- An way to easy access qualified individuals who are capable of helping students and understand course material
- Faster, and more efficient way to be able to help more students in shorter periods of time.
- Easier way to students to make money.

"Donald Knuth"



- In Person Interview in Dorm, Voice Memo
- Male, Junior (20) at Santa Clara University
- Accounting Major
- "I'm not really one to utilize them [academic support structures]. I just try to figure it out on my own."

"Regularly, or even on average. I see posts getting 1500 to 2500 responses on polls"

"Professors run office hours. We rarely interact with TAs and if we do its when they run a review session"

"The people who ask real questions (referring to questions on fizz), you kind of just scroll past them"

"There were accounting tutors that got recommended by the professors"

He hasn't ever been to office hours and has rarely reached out for support

Participates on group projects

only when required to

Avoids group work due to a lack of trust in peers, preferring to work on their own or with trusted resources.

'I think we have a TA, I'm not really sure"

I think that the

academic conten

funny content on

I'm not really one

to utilize them

structures. I just

try to figure it out

"You could go to

the accounting department head but that is not

really their job"

getting support)

Uses resources to

(referring to

[academic

support]

on my own"

gets lost in the

Fizz."

I don't really go to office hours. I think that I've only ever been to

"Fizz is a place for

people to get

attention and

post not

productive

content"

I dont think I've ever had a class over like 20 people*

"STEM students reach out more often for academic support"

> "Fizz kind of became twitter. People were just posting hot takes on there all the time just for attention, A lot of it was rage-bait

takes"

I dont think that (teaching team size] is really a problem because our classes are not that big"

Usually they professors] will be willing to spend 20 or 30 minutes with you If I can't figure this out on my own, then I will not do well on teh

This academic environment does not fit my learning Believes that students don't necessarily need office hours if they can get support through other avenues

May think that

non-STEM majors

should not reach

out for support

work, preferring self-reliance or professional help.

of putting

academic trust in

peers or group

provided

Possibly skeptical academic support, especially

that the school resources are wroth his time

Thinks that Fizz as a social distraction and not a useful platform for compared to

other more formal

Class performance is not important for their future goals

Thinks that he will

learn better if he

is forced to work

through content

resources.

This academic structure is not designed for me

Thinks that

seeking help right

before the exam

may be a waste

Thinks that the

use of Al could

improve how

information is

organized and

presented in the

classroom, seeing

potential benefits

if more integrated

into the learning

environment.

of time

May feel a sense

students' abilities,

Overwhelmed by

workload and

does not have

time to figure out

especially those

they consider

less capable

of skepticism

toward other

Feels like office hours is not a good use of their

could be a valuable tool for learning but is possibly restricted by how professors currently frame its usage.

Feels that Al

and work around TA schedules May feel slightly disconnected from the Fizz platform, viewing it as cluttered or

"I don't really go to office hours, I think that I've only ever been to one"

Jonah

Avoids group work due to a lack of trust in peers, preferring to work on their own or with trusted resources.

Jonah

If I can't figure this out on my own, then I will not do well on the exam

Jonah

THINKS SAYS 1 1 1 1 W

DOES

Procrastinates on

determine the difficulty of classes (similar to Carta).

assignments until the last minute. Does not reach then seeks out to student external help services or when under advisors.

Reaches out to Does not trust older students for fellow students advice about when forced to classes, teachers. do group work. and scheduling.

Has a lack of trust for students who do not seem proficient in a given topic.

Has not found the need for academic support.

need to seek additional support because they believe they are in a less demanding environment (non-STEM).

Doesn't feel a

Feels that it is difficult to admit when they need

Feels that Fizz is a platform exclusively for fun content

May feel anxious

about reaching

out for support

Feels a reluctance to

Could feel

content or

confident in their

performance, as

is no shortage of

they are not in a

available help

FEELS

collaborate

they believe there when needed and high-stress STEM

frustration or disinterest in group work, preferring to work independently or relying on professors over

Might experience

academic purposes, while preferring more streamlined methods of

seeking support.

unproductive for

peers.

"Donald Knuth"



Insights:

- Does not reach out for academic support due to challenges using the existing systems.
- Small classes without TAs means that it is difficult to receive learning aid.

- A streamlined way to receive educational assistance when the Professor is not available
- Structured Advice from older students

"Alan Turing"



- Zoom Interview
- Male, Senior (18) at a local private high school
- Aspiring International Policy major
- "But I'd say with the presence of AI, I've seen a lot fewer kids go to office hours just as a general trend."

important that both students and teachers know how to use it, understand it, and that it's not seen as a total negative, as long as it's used properly and students are still exercising their own minds and thinking critically.

"I'd say [my number one resourcel is probably my teachers. Just being able to talk with them at office hours is the best way for me personally to get a better understanding of, you know, the content and the material of the

class."

Pays some attention to the Al tools used by his classmates for specific purposes, like Photomath for math, but avoids using them for the most part

Frequently attends office hours, and due to lack of participants, can usually spend as much time with teachers as he needs

Uses the library. the librarians for research purposes

"But I'd say with the presence of Al. I've seen a lot fewer kids go to office hours just as a general trend."

"Obviously, there is a level of factchecking necessary to make sure you're not getting [...] biased or BS information."

"And also other sites, like, I forgot the name of Google's Gemini? [...] Yeah. Gemini. So people have used that too And, yeah, I mean,

people use those for

learning resources."

Erred on the side of caution when using ChatGPT in its early days, so as to avoid being honor-coded

Doesn't use Photomath because it gives answers and, if paid for, the steps to get to the answer. because he feels it takes away from his ability to learn

Reaches out to upperclassmen who have taken a class he's struggling with when he needs help. hecause they are most likely to understand his POV

At the end of the day. Al is a new technological resource, and it's gonna be part of our lives for the foreseeable future."

"Teachers are not necessarily encouraging the use of [AI], but they are permitting it to certain extents as long as the ideas generated are still [those] of the students."

"So I'd say, unless there's a big test coming up, people don't really use office hours until 2, 3 days before."

When struggling beyond help with teachers, goes to an external tutoring service (knows content but very expensive)

Uses Al in AP classes for outline generation, as permitted by teachers

Seeks out personal time with teachers outside of office

"And then there's also stuff like I don't know if this counts, but Photomath, for example, which, you know, does work for

...until it comes to the test, obviously, but they can get through all the homeworks, all the projects and stuff pretty easily."

people think that they have stuff down because they can kind of cheat their way through a class or kind of, you know, BS it, I guess."

School-provided resources like office hours weren't sufficient for students, which led many to seek out more help from Al.

This created a drop

in demand for those

school resources, so

less are now offered

Thinks that if his

classmates used

office hours further

in advance of tests.

demand with more

office hours times

teachers would

respond to the

the class you're

struggling in are

generally a better

working through

sources for

answer

problems on his own

then trying in-person

guidance, so as to

some money tutoring

people for classes

Proud of leveraging

without overusing i

Al when needed

Proud of his

people

proactivity in seeking

out in-person help

from experienced

they've taken

not be given the

the internet

source of help than

Frustrated with the

lack of resources at school as a result of lowered demand

Fortunate that lack of demand for office hours means that he gets more personal time with teachers

Underserved by the lack of a TA or student tutor network on campus

Disadvantaged by lack of access to teachers when tests are coming up

Uncertain about how Al progress will change educational access in the future

Better prepared than most of his classmates thanks to his effort

comfortable using ChatGPT and other Als, and decided they'd rather circumvent the restrictions set around them than follow the rules and learn for themselves

Doesn't trust Al to

correct answers to

homework questions

reliably provide

on its own.

THINKS

that helps people feel as if they're learning, but their lack of understanding of the content is shown come test time

into high school

during quarantine

and didn't build the

habits of asking for

help in office hours

Al serves a crutch

early on

Wishes it were easier to connect with people who are familiar with the course content he's struggling with.

Many high schoolers today undervalue the help that can be found from teachers and students who've taken the class

to its tendency to hallucinate and misinterpret information

Feels more engaged in the learning process than his classmates

Concerned about the shortcuts his peers take via Al instead of actually learning the content

Al serves a crutch that helps people feel as if they're learning, but their lack of understanding of the content is shown come test time.

alexyans

"So I'd say, [...] unless there's a big test coming up, people don't really use office hours until, like, 2, 3 days before."

Underserved by the lack of a TA or student tutor network on campus



Avoids using Al tools in places where he feels it would take away from his learning experience

"Alan Turing"



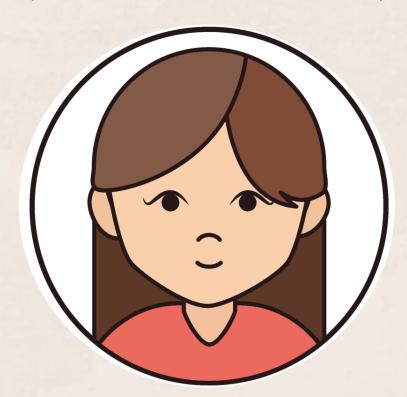
Insights:

- Students are overly reliant on AI tools which are not a real replacement for TA or teacher help (using them as a crutch).
- The lack of a network of TAs or student tutors restricts options for finding help.

- Improved communication channels between students, teachers, staff, etc.
- Academic help from people with experience with the coursework when teachers are unavailable

Extreme Users

Ada Lovelace (TA & EdTech Researcher)



Margaret Hamilton (Student-Athlete + Pre-Med)



What we learned

Students feel that the lack of quality TAs and over-generalization of TA expertise makes getting help unappealing and not worthwhile.

Students prefer to work with and learn from other students who have **experience in the coursework** and can openly discuss course content.

There is a **lack of office hour flexibility** to satisfy the time demands, schedule, and quantity of students that are in need of **personalized** academic support.

The TA recruiting process is overly tedious while also lacking proper training on the job, leading to low-impact TAs while also excluding a large group of potential candidates.

Next Steps

More Interviews

Collect more data on the same subject from a broader range of people (teachers, professors, etc.)

Narrdwing Down

Specify Problem
Domain within
Education Technology
(video tutorials, study
tools, tutoring, AIpowered tools)

Combine to Create a Point of View

Find Patterns and Inconsistencies Across Findings + Needs

Explore Innovation Potential

Explore new solutions and technologies to address unmet needs and challenge current systems & & HMWs



Thank you!