Transitional Strategies: Student Success Initiatives and Community Partnerships

Middlesex Community College
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Introductions

- Dean Steven Minkler, Academic Affairs/Chief Academic Officer
  sminkler@mxcc.edu
- Donna Bontatibus, English Coordinator
  dbontatibus@mxcc.edu
- Tami Christopher, Director of Meriden Center
  Tchristopher@mxcc.edu
- Teresa Cull, Educational Support Specialist, Math
  tcull@mxcc.edu
- Catherine Hostetter, Educational Support Specialist, English
  chostetter@mxcc.edu
Transitional Strategies: Student Success Initiatives and Community Partnerships

Presentation Overview

1. Background
2. Fast Track Math and English Workshops
3. Community Partnerships
   - ICTP Intensive College Transitional Pilot with Adult Education
   - Transitional Strategies with Adult Education
4. Questions
Transitional Strategies: Background

- PA12-40 Act on College Readiness and Completion
- Intensive College Transitions Program (ICTP, 2011)
- Institutionalize the use of supplemental instructors/classroom assistants
- Pilot noncredit workshops in Math and English (summer 2013)
- Instructional Support Specialists hired in English and Math (summer 2014)
- Full implementation of Fast Track Workshops and Supplemental Support
Fast Track Workshops
English and Math

Intensive Math for College Readiness at MxCC

Intensive Math for College Readiness is a two-week workshop designed to help students refresh skills in reading and writing—essay writing, grammar, and reading skills. This workshop will be particularly beneficial for students placing in developmental writing and reading.

At the end of the workshop, students may retake a placement test to see if they can progress to another level of English. For those new to English courses, a placement test will be needed before the start of the workshop to determine eligibility.

For the spring semester, there are three late start classes: ENGL063 (Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays) and ENGL073 (Academic Writing). Students who register for the Jan. 27-Feb. 5 workshop may consider these late start options if eligible. Session two is suggested for students who have either placed in ENGL063 or ENGL073.

For more information, contact Professor Elaine Bannister at 860-345-5820 or ebannister@mxcc.edu.

Choose a Session:

SESSION ONE
January-June, 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Fee</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>#109 Snow Hall</td>
<td>$60</td>
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SESSION TWO
February-June, 2014

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<tr>
<td>2 p.m. - 5 p.m.</td>
<td>#119 roommate</td>
<td>$60</td>
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WHAT IS THE GOAL OF THIS PROGRAM?

Our goal is to enable you to begin your sequence of required math courses for your academic program at a higher level, as well as to strengthen your math skills for remedial courses and graduate with a finely honed quantitative analysis for future careers.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

High school graduation will be tailored to the skills necessary to successfully complete the math portion of the Acceptance Test, which is a test of skills that determine success in math, reading, and writing at your preparatory level or in college-level courses.

Frequently Asked Questions

Here are some frequently asked questions about the program:

1. Why is this program important?
   - This program is designed to help you refresh your math skills and prepare for college-level courses.

2. Who is eligible for this program?
   - This program is open to high school students who have not passed the math portion of the Acceptance Test. Students can choose to participate in this program and potentially save time and money by starting at a higher level in college.

3. How does this program work?
   - The program consists of two sessions, each lasting two weeks. In the first session, you will work on improving your math skills to prepare for the Acceptance Test. In the second session, you will focus on developing your writing skills. Both sessions are designed to help you succeed in college-level courses.
EDUC 1003, Fast Track English (Reading-Writing Workshop) (0 credits)
This non-credit, fast-track workshop is designed to help students refresh their skills in essay writing, grammar, and reading comprehension. The workshop will be particularly beneficial for students placing at the intensive level but are open to all students. At the end of the workshop, students may retake a placement test to see if they can progress to College Level or College Level with Embedded Support.
English Fast Track Workshops

- 24 Contact Hours
  - 8 Days
  - 3 Hours Each Day

- Students Retake Accuplacer on Last Day
  - New Scores Determine Placement

- Workshop Designed for Students to Refresh Reading and Writing Skills
  - Curriculum Covers Essential Material from ENG096
  - Focus on The Accuplacer and Test-Taking Strategies
English Fast Track Workshops
Challenges

- Time Frame
- Students Have Diverse Skill Levels
- Students Have Wide Variety of Needs and Goals
- Students’ Motivation Varies Greatly
Successes

Summer 2015

- 54% of Students Scored Higher on Both Sections of the Accuplacer
- 38% of Students Scored Higher on At Least One Section of the Accuplacer
- 46% of Students Moved into a Higher Level English Course
- 73% of Students Registered for a Fall 2015 English Class
- 57% of Students Who Registered for a Fall 2015 Passed with a C or Higher
Successes

- "This class helped me learn things that I didn't in high school. In my opinion it has helped me feel better and more prepared to start college."

- "This class really did help me with understanding reading comprehension."

- "Taking this course was extremely beneficial for me. I feel that it has helped refresh my memory especially when it comes to writing an essay."
Math Fast Track Workshop
EDUC 1002

EDUC 1002, Fast-Track Math Workshop (0 credits)
This noncredit workshop is designed to help students refresh their skills in arithmetic and elementary algebra concepts. The workshop is targeted to benefit students placing at the intensive levels. At the end of the workshop, students may retake the placement test to see if they can progress to a course that is College Level or College Level with Embedded Support.
Math Fast Track Workshops

- Pre-requisite: Math Accuplacer Exam with placement into MAT*085 or MAT*095.
- Offer 2-3 sections during the Winter intersession and 5-6 sections during the Summer intersession. (morning, afternoon, and evening offerings)
- 27 classroom contact hours, 3 hours per day
- The course is structured as a combination of lecture, group work, and self-paced online tutorial videos and practice sets. Dedication outside the classroom is also expected in order to achieve maximum results.
- 5 days on arithmetic and 4 days on elementary algebra topics
- Accuplacer re-test takes place on the 10th day of the workshop
Math Fast Track Workshops

- Student quotes from course evaluations:
  - “This course helped me understand 085 and 095 topics clearly and it has boosted my confidence”
  - “The math workshop helped to break down some barriers I have in math. I was not able to truly improve my course, but I was able to be introduced to what was expected of me and what I need to learn to improve in math.”
  - “Great way to dust off the cobwebs for someone that hasn’t done math in a while. Even if I don’t place into a higher math I feel much more prepared.”
Math Fast Track Workshops
Challenges

- Number of “no shows” due to the workshop being free of charge
- Working with students who are all at very different math levels and not always having a classroom assistant to help
- A lot of material in a short amount of time
- Students who do not do any work outside of the workshop
- Students with math and/or test anxiety
Math Fast Track Workshops Successes

- The build-up from number sense to elementary algebra brings everything together, which helps to develop a better mathematical foundation.
- Great refresher for a student who has not been in school in a long time.
- Workshops can provide a great transition to college (meet new people, get acquainted, etc.)
- Students are more likely to enroll in a math course sooner than later.
- Factual Data: 248 students (as of Summer 2013) have attended a Math Fast Track Workshop, 173 students were eligible to move up at least one math course from their original placement.
- About 3 out of 5 students who take a math course after the workshop pass (many factors can be attributed to a failing or withdrawal grade).
Community Partnerships with Adult Education

Meriden Adult Education

Middletown Adult Education

Wallingford Adult Education
Experience the Power of Lifelong Learning
Intensive College Transitions Program (ICTP): MxCC and Meriden Adult Education

- ICTP Intensive College Transitions Program
- Meriden Adult Education Partnership, 2011
- Package/Structure
  - Intake
  - Noncredit English and Math
  - Credit FS100 Freshman Seminar
  - Tutoring Support
  - Counselor
Transitional Strategies Programs with Adult Education (PA12-40)

Spring 2015

- Meriden Adult Education
- Middletown Adult Education
- Wallingford Adult Education

Packages with Adult Education--Courses

- English Fast Track (10 weeks)
- Math Fast Track (10 weeks)
- FS100 Freshman Seminar (full semester or late start)
Transitional Strategies with Adult Education

Recruitment
- Placement Testing at MxCC
- Advising, emails, phone calls, basic marketing
- Meriden and Middletown Adult Education

Support within Programs at Adult Education
- Meriden (counselor, tutoring, post placement testing)
- Middletown (counselor, tutoring if needed, post placement testing, bus tokens)
- Wallingford
Successes and Challenges

- **Fall 2015 Cohort (Middletown and Wallingford)**
  - 50% increased in points in at least one area (Math and/or ENG)
  - 50% increased in one level (Math and/or ENG)
  - 54.54% returned to Spring 2016 Semester

- **Spring 2015 (Middletown, Meriden, Wallingford)**
  - 28% increased in points in at least one area
  - 72% increased in at least one level
  - 35.56% returned to Fall 2015-Spring 16 Academic Year
Many of the same challenges experienced by the Fast Track Workshops in Math and English.
Successes

- “The transitional classes helped me become better prepared and confident in reading, writing & math skills.”

- “It was wonderful. I felt that I made great connections with the teachers and the students.”

- “I liked my teachers and tutors. They helped me a lot. Now I can take college level classes.”
What’s Next?

► Funding?
► Workshops as Required Labs?
► Placement Floor?
► Logistics v. Successes?
Contact Information
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