

**Basic Skills Meeting Agenda**  
**12/15/09 3:00-4:00pm 3-104**

1. Impact of sections being cut on Basic Skills Students (Greg)

- ENGL/READ
- MATH
- ESL

Greg presented data on success of basic skills students in transfer classes. Looked at a 12 introductory transfer classes across the curriculum (ECON, PSYC, SOC, INTD, etc.). Students do better when they place higher or complete the necessary remediation sequence, sometimes dramatically better (e.g. the range for Math was 35.9% success for students who had placed at lowest level Math to 84.1% success for students at transfer level Math. A similar but less dramatic trajectory for ENGL and READ).

Getting through Reading remediation sequence seems to improve success in Math as well.

Students who do remediation Math and English together seem to do well. This data is confirmed by Salumeh and Denise's experience with Summer LEAP.

Students who place higher do better than students who have completed the basic skills sequence, with the exception of students who achieve mastery in basic skills courses.

Discussion of passing vs. mastery: Math, ESL. Should we raise the "passing" bar? Should we encourage the pass/no pass option so students can more easily repeat courses they don't have mastery of?

Getting through Math, English, and Reading remediation sequence improves student success in transfer courses, dramatically in many cases. What should we do with this information? Where is the venue for a campus discussion of the pros and cons of enforcing requirements?

Would there be enough Math, ESL, ENGL, and READ sections to accommodate students if we enforced requirements?

How can we best support student success in basic skills Math? More Math Jam? Summer LEAP? Math Learning Communities?

Greg is interested in forming a faculty Research Advisory Committee.

Please send specific questions for Greg to address.

2. Review job descriptions for Basic Skills and Learning Communities Coordinators; split up duties (committee)

College will not be funding Basic Skills Coordinator or Learning Communities Coordinator positions Spring 2010.

Full review postponed until January 19 2010 meeting

Could the coordinator for the new Center for Teaching Excellence take on some of these duties?

**Basic Skills Coordinator Duties (partial list)**

- Work with the Research Office to gather data, and with the Basic Skills Committee to share data and discuss program needs. **Alicia Aguirre**
- Maintain and update the Basic Skills Committee web page with assistance. **Michelle Morton**
- Represent Basic Skills on the Instructional Planning Council and College Planning Council [**Rita Sabbadini?**]. Prepare brief progress/communication reports for the Basic Skills Committee and the Academic Senate [**most college have a Basic Skills representative on the Academic Senate**].

3. Basic Skills Website (Michelle)

Reviewed new [Basic Skills Committee website](#). Please review and provide feedback.  
Send documents, activities, events and resources to Michelle and she will post them to the website

#### 4. Joint meeting: Basic Skills + Honors (Alicia)

Michelle, Salumeh, and Leonor will contact Patty Dilko about setting up a meeting with Honors to discuss:

Common goals, how to work together to support our students

How can we make the transition from ESL/Basic Skills to Honors smoother?

How many Honors students begin in ESL/Basic Skills? Lisa Palmer thought most students.

Changing perceptions, assumptions about who is an Honors student

Honors Coordinator funded by the District (Chancellor)

#### 5. Expanding counseling services for ESL; communicating changes in ESL, READ/ENGL, MATH sequences to counselors (Carla)

Role of counseling in helping students transition into new sequence.

When should counselors visit ESL classes? Few weeks into the semester?

Students at different levels: pushed ahead? Repeat? Need to talk with instructor or counselor. ESL faculty thought that students tend to underestimate their abilities and want to start at the beginning.

Meeting Dec. 18 in Counseling to discuss learning communities. Would be helpful if more instructional faculty attended.

#### 6. Other

Flex day on Learning Communities January. Should Greg present research findings as part of this workshop? Presentation + discussion?

New Learning Community Spring 2010: taught in Menlo Park, designed for displaced workers using stimulus funds. 15 unit course including ESL, READ, CRER 401, BUS, language skills for accounting and book keeping...

ESL 400/LIBR 100 Learning Community and research project: David Patterson will do an ethnographic study of learning community

#### **Next Basic Skills Meeting: January 19, 2009**

- Questions for researcher: can we look at how Learning Communities impact sequence completion (vs. "success rate"?)
- Review basic skills coordinator duties and basic skills activities 2009-2010, identify candidates to cover those duties
- Trustees Fund for Program Improvement projects: assessing the impact of new ESL sequence; developing materials for reading and math; assessing ESL 400 & LIBR 100. Other grant funding?