Thank you for joining this session about ACCUPLACER Computer Skills Placement exams, also known as CSP.
Gone are the days when typing and word processing skills were the only computer skills needed by a college student. Computer literacy has become a critical component of college and career success. In today’s session we are going to discuss how CSP can address questions you may be facing on your campus. Questions like...Are basic computer skills necessary for college success? Do our students arrive on campus with these skills? Does lack of basic computer skills have a negative effect on retention? And... what exactly is CSP? 😊
First, let's define Computer Literacy. Computer literacy is the foundational skills necessary for basic understanding of computer hardware, software and internet use. These skills are highly valued and a critical component to success in both educational and employment environments.
There’s a common misconception that today’s students bring sophisticated computer skills to college and there is not a need to remediate or develop incoming students’ computer skills. However, a growing body of research suggests that this may not be the case. Today’s college student may know how to shop online, download a movie, or tweet – however, that does not equate to the skills needed for success. There has been a shift from what we have known as the three ‘R’s needed for success in school, Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic, to the three ‘C’s Communicating, Calculating, and Computing!

Exposure does not necessarily translate to understanding.
CSP and CTE

- Computer skills are an essential building block in most if not all CTE fields of work in 2014
  - Automotive Technology – computer skills needed for high level sophisticated systems to scan, diagnose engines, read technical manuals, and generate customer reports
  - Nursing – charting, managing medication ordering software, patient care documentation (bedside nursing stations)
  - Construction Trades – online project management/collaboration tools, design software (digital 3D)
  - CNC Machine Technology – ability to program in CNC machining language and design software

An additional use of CSP is to improve course placement for Career and Technical Educational Programs. Stop for a second and think of all the majors or programs offered at your institution. Are there any that do NOT require computer skills, either while the Student is enrolled or when the Student is in the workplace? (Pause) We know that whether the Student is in Automotive Technology, Nursing, or Manufacturing strong computer skills are imperative to success.
CSP Test Design

CSP options and test design.
Re-record:

CSP tests are online assessments that pinpoint Student’s proficiencies and deficiencies in basic computer skills. As like other ACCUPLACER tests, scoring is immediate and the results provide essential information needed for both proper academic advising and accurate course selection. CSP tests are fully integrated into the ACCUPLACER platform and can be used in branching profiles, placement rules and reporting. The CSP tests currently cover Windows 7/Office 2010 and Windows 8/Office 2013.
CSP measure seven basic competencies that reflect Microsoft’s Windows 7 operating system and the Office 2010 suite of applications. Test questions on each section quickly and efficiently test Student’s basic knowledge of the seven competency areas necessary for success in today’s digital world.
CSP Test Design

CSP Basic
- 30 questions covering basic level computer skills
- Covers 3 competency areas:
  - Using The Computer & Managing Files
  - Word Processing
  - Information & Communication

CSP Advanced
- 70 questions covering all 7 skill sets of computer literacy
- Using the Computer & Managing Files
- Word Processing
- Information & Communication
- Spreadsheets
- Database
- Presentation
- Basic Concepts of IT

CSP is available in two different formats; basic and advanced. CSP basic is comprised of 30 questions that cover three content areas File Management, Word Processing, and Information and Communication. This version is typically used for general advising purposes. Today Students, regardless of their program, will be required to preform the following tasks via the computer; register for courses, check grades, submit assignments, navigate learning management systems, download online reading, and utilize online research tools to name a few. Students are at a disadvantage right out of the gate, so to speak, if they are lacking proficient computer skills. CSP can be used in advising to direct these Students to either a foundational computer course or appropriate support services. The CSP advanced test can be used for Students who are enrolling in technology driven programs – for example Network Administrator, Informational Technology, Programming, and Business Analyst, or to fulfill a technology competency requirement for graduation.
CSP scores are reported on the ACCUPLACER Individual Score Report along with other ACCUPLACER test scores. Additionally, detailed category test results can be accessed by clicking on the CSP test name which is presented as a hyperlink on the Individual Score Report.
CSP test content.