



Enhancing Developmental Education

Middlesex Community College Lowell, Massachusetts

Target Students: Students Enrolled in
Developmental Reading and Writing

Pilot Duration: 15 weeks

Implementation Model: Blended Learning

Executive Summary

Middlesex Community College redesigned its Developmental Reading and Writing courses to incorporate use of ACCUPLACER//MyFoundationsLab as part of instruction. Results show that students taking the redesigned courses had higher rates of persistence and completion as well as higher course grades than students taking the traditional versions.

Implementation Details

Middlesex Community College recently redesigned its developmental math curriculum to provide more academic support to students through use of Pearson's MyFoundationsLab. To determine if similar changes could enhance developmental reading and writing, Middlesex designed an Accelerated Learning Program (ALP) model which incorporated ACCUPLACER//MyFoundationsLab as well as additional academic support. This model was piloted during the 2011-12 academic year for students in 14 sections of various courses including GED preparation and three levels of Preparation for College Reading, English Fundamentals, and Basic Writing. Students were given ACCUPLACER Diagnostics in Reading Comprehension and Sentence Skills then assigned an individualized learning path in MyFoundationsLab. Time for access to MFL was provided through class lab time with independent study also required. Progress was monitored by both faculty and professional tutors throughout the semester. When comparing student performance in the ALP vs. non-ALP classes, students in the redesigned ALP courses did better than those in the traditional version of the course.

Results

- 72% of students in ALP Writing completed vs. 63% in the traditional course.
- 71% of students completed with a C- or better in the ALP version of ENG 101 vs. only 53% in the traditional version.
- ALP students (81%) were more likely to persist and enroll for the following semester than non-ALP students (72%).

Lessons Learned

- ACCUPLACER//MyFoundationsLab helps produce gains which
- instructor involvement in the intervention process including monitoring progress, setting expectations, and providing structure produces stronger results..

Implementation model

- Independent Study
- Independent Study with Guidance
- Lab Class
- Blended Instruction

Measure of success

- Improvement in Scores
- Improvement in Placement Levels
- Improvement in Proficiency Levels
- Performance in Subsequent Courses

Location

- Urban
- Suburban
- Rural
- Online

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