

ACCUPLACER®

Case Study

Improving Course Placement

Cerritos College Norwalk, California

Target Students: Developmental Education Students

Pilot Duration: 6 weeks

Implementation Model:
Independent Study with Instructor Guidance

Executive Summary

Students using ACCUPLACER®//MyFoundationsLab® for a six-week intensive independent study course made impressive gains in course placement. 46% of students in math and 40% of students in English improved their course placement by one or more levels when post-tested.

Implementation Details

Cerritos College, a two-year institution in Norwalk, Calif., created a special “prep” course using ACCUPLACER//MyFoundationsLab to help 40 students whose placement test results indicated the need for developmental course work but who could not register as these courses were full. Students took the ACCUPLACER diagnostic test for Reading Comprehension, Sentence Skills, and Math. They had only six weeks to receive targeted assessment, instead of the standard 10-week semester course. After receiving appropriate training through MyFoundationsLab, they retook the diagnostic tests. The results were astounding.

Post-Diagnostic Results

- 54% of the students saw an increase in their reading comprehension placement scores.
- 28% improved their reading course placement level by one or more courses.
- 62% of the students increased their sentence skills placement scores.
- 40% improved their English course placement level by one or more courses.
- 46% of the students improved their math course placement level by one or more courses.

This post-intervention assessment proves that ACCUPLACER//MyFoundationsLab is the solution to enhance college preparedness and student success.

Lessons Learned

- Use of instructional resources and strategies aligned to the domains measured by ACCUPLACER can produce a significant improvement in student placement.
- Even short-term interventions produce measurable gains in student achievement.

Implementation Model employed in this pilot

Independent Study with Guidance

This instructional model allows students to work on their own in the ACCUPLACER//MyFoundationsLab online intervention curricula while also receiving some monitoring and guidance from a teacher/instructor. There is no provision for dedicated class time or access to hardware; students must provide their own computer and manage their own learning with minimal support.

Measure of Success

Improvement in Placement Levels

Pilot program sites were able to identify the percentage of students who improved their course placement and the number of courses bypassed by comparing students' placement levels from pre- to post-assessment. Pilots used the ACCUPLACER placement test as the pre- and post-assessment measure.

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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