Basic Skills Initiative (BSI)
2009-10 Basic Skills Committee (BSC) Co-chairs
• Carolyn Arnold & Rachel Maldonado-Aziminia

Background
Accomplishments of Basic Skills Committee 2008-09
Plans for Basic Skills Committee 2009-10

Background: How the Basic Skills Initiative (BSI) Works
• State provides funds to colleges
  (because 70% of CCC students and 80-90% of Chabot students are Basic Skills students)
• Colleges write self-assessment and plan by Spring 08; Chabot’s self-assessment included
  four recommendations for strengthening support and pedagogy for basic skills students
• Chabot uses funds to implement self-assessment recommendations,
  relying on research and best practices

Background: Chabot Self-Assessment Recommendations (Completed in Spring 08)
  1. Carefully study the adoption of mandatory orientation and/or assessment at Chabot
     and develop policy recommendations
  2. Increase professional development to support best practices in basic skills
  3. Expand & strengthen supplemental academic & counseling support in basic skills
  4. Support ongoing curriculum review & change in basic skills and other disciplines

Accomplishments of Basic Skills Committee (BSC) 2008-09:
  Co-chairs: Katie Hern & Michael Thompson
  Led the committee in carrying out recommendations (well done!):
  Committee time used to:
  1) Study and discuss issues around adoption of mandatory orientation, assessment, and/or
     placement and developed policy recommendations
  2) Fund FIGS to increase professional development in best practices
     • All are developing or using best practices to help students
     • All are being evaluated to see what works at Chabot

Basic skills initiative funds used to:
  2) Fund FIGS to increase professional development in best practices
     • Chemistry: Lab Activity/Study Methods
     • Early Decision Program Expansion
     • ESL Program/Curriculum Development
     • ESL Grammar Pedagogy
     • ESL SLO Assessments for Adjunct Faculty
     • English: Innovative Grading Methods
     • Reading Apprenticeship (multi-disciplinary)
     • Math: Online Learning Support for Math 65
     • Math: Faculty training for Math 54L
     • Math: Purchase and Use of Diagnostic Software
     • Math: Sharing Instructional Methods
     • Math/Science: Integrated Evening Lab
     • Social Science: Adapt WRAC course for Social Science courses
     • Social Science: New Pedagogical Approaches
     • Geography: Supplemental instruction
     • History: Supplemental instruction
Accomplishments of Basic Skills Committee (BSC) 08-09 (continued)

Basic skills initiative funds used to:

3) Support expanded Learning Connection tutoring services

Committee supported ongoing work already occurring:

4) New and revised curriculum development in English, Mathematics, ESL, and other disciplines

BSC committee time: used to consider Mandatory Assessment in these ways:

1) Generated/reviewed institutional research data, basic skills assessment, success, & persistence, GE and CTE course success (given basic skills), and literature on best practices in basic skills

2) Developed policy recommendations:
   • Facilitate student completion of developmental coursework as early as possible in their education at Chabot
   • Increase student participation in orientation and assessment

Developed “Jumpstart:” a jointly funded BSI and Title III Fall 2009 Pilot
to implement and test policy recommendations:
Combines best practices from student services with new insights about English 102
• Offer the Jumpstart program to 150 late-starting students, who apply to Chabot after mid-July, when basic skills courses are full & student services can be difficult to obtain
   NOTE: these are the Basic Skills students who are most likely to fail other courses.
• Provide orientation & assessment and English 102 sections with linked counseling and math review courses
• If our assumptions are correct, we expect to see: significantly higher success and retention than in late-starting peers who do not get the combination of services and classes

Plans for Basic Skills Committee 2009-10
• Monitor the Fall 2009 Jumpstart results.
   Is early assessment and placement in basic skills courses effective?
   Does it increase success with students who might otherwise fail?
• Study and publicize results from all BSI/T3 FIGs.
   What do our own best practices tell us?
• Refine or add to policy recommendations for Chabot based on this research
   How else can we encourage students to take assessment and basic skills courses earlier?
• Work with the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) to share what we learn

Basic Skills Committee 2009-10 Meetings:
2nd and 4th Tuesdays at noon
Room 1814
First meeting: Tuesday, September 8th
Noon, Room 1814
Join us!

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