

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

Basic skills initiative funds used to:

- 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

BSI Faculty Inquiry Groups (FIGS) Funded for Spring and Fall 2009:

- 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!

Co-chairs: Carolyn Arnold, Coordinator, Institutional Research & Grants

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