CSU Transforming Course Design Initiative Update
April, 2009

Sharing Redesigned Courses Across the CSU

Florence Newberger, math faculty at CSU Long Beach, is currently redesigning five large lecture Calculus for Business courses on her campus following a successful model developed by Kate Stevenson at CSU Northridge (CSUN). Florence’s courses will use online math software to bridge the gap between the Entry Level Mathematics placement test and calculus. Similar to the CSUN course redesign model, Florence will rely on online homework and “hands-on” labs to provide additional opportunities for students to interact with the content and receive personalized feedback.

Scaling Humboldt State’s Math Assessment Pilot to Promote Proficiency Before the First Year

Accurately placing first-time freshmen into an appropriate math course is a challenge at many CSU campuses. As part of the systemwide Transforming Course Design initiative, Humboldt State University developed a mathematics assessment program that provides incoming freshmen with information about their math readiness for the CSU and affords them opportunities to improve their math placement before arriving on campus. The assessment and skill practice system is part of a web-based intelligent tutorial called ALEKS, and is currently being piloted at eight CSU campuses. For more information, please see the coded memo.

Best Practices: San José State’s Successfully Redesigned Developmental Math Course

Susan McClory, Developmental Mathematics Coordinator at San Jose State University (SJSU), redesigned her department’s courses in an effort to improve student learning and lower instructional costs. By employing large lectures, interactive math labs, and a mastery learning testing model, the course passage rate has improved 13% while lowering costs.

Watch a short video about her successful course redesign model.

Quick Updates

Microeconomics
The Microeconomics team is finishing up two months of research into student learning challenges, student performance data, and CSU course structures.

U.S. History
The U.S. History team is beginning to identify and investigate relevant course redesign solutions.

General Chemistry
Members of the General Chemistry team are piloting several redesign solutions including clickers, online homework, and supplemental instruction.

Developmental Mathematics
Developmental Mathematics team members are piloting a variety of course redesign solutions including: mastery learning, math tutorial software, and interactive math labs.

Course Redesign Conference Materials

The annual National Center for Academic Transformation (NCAT) conference was held on March 22-24. The conference provided examples of course redesign models in place at universities throughout the country.

Conference presentations are available on the NCAT Website.

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