Developmental Mathematics Online: Can it be done successfully?

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Best Practice Research

- Online coursework should be precisely defined and structured
- Increased communication between student and instructor
- Teach online learning skills
- “Learners are more likely to focus more on learning and benefit when online courses are carefully planned through clear expectations and guidelines”
Retention Research

• Screening student who take online classes based on study skills
• Students need to be made aware of expectations when signing up for an online developmental course
• Informational website should be set-up for online students to examine prior to enrolling in an online course
• Students who choose to take an internet course for personal reasons have a better retention rate than those placed in the course
• Provide tutoring and support options early in the class and/or make it a part of the course to examine the support options of the class
INSTRUCTION DESIGN TIPS
Learner Support and Resources

- Information about being an online learner
  - Link to resources on the college
    - Testing center
    - Disability services
    - Library
    - Tutoring Services
  - Contact information for the help desk at your college
  - Netiquette guidelines
  - How to navigate the course
Learner Support and Resources

- Course Specific Resources
  - Contact information for instructor
  - Links to purchasing the materials for the course
  - Contact information for publisher technical support

- Resources Supporting Course Content
  - Links to relevant websites
    - Kahn Academy - www.kahnacademy.org
Online Organization and Design

- Course Navigability and Organization
  - Syllabus is easily located
  - All links, media files, and images work
  - Course content is organized in a logical format
  - Course schedule is available in a printer friendly format
  - All menu items contain active content
Online Organization and Design

- Syllabus Includes
  - Course objectives (Student learning objectives)
  - Course grading criteria
  - Turnaround time for contact with instructor
  - Course schedule
    - All course due dates should take into consideration a wide variety of student schedules
Online Organization and Design

- **Aesthetic Design**
  - Spelling and grammar are accurate
  - Font type, size, and color are readable and appropriate throughout the site
  - Design keeps course pages to a comfortable length with white space
  - Images used in course are of good quality and sized appropriately

- **Consistency in Course**
  - Navigability is clear, simple, and user friendly
  - Clear directions are given for each assignment
  - Sentences and paragraphs are brief
Instructional Design and Delivery

- Promote Interaction and Communication
  - Students introduce themselves
  - Instructor introduces himself/herself to model interaction
  - Students are encouraged to respond to classmates
  - Netiquette is enforced
  - Reading and writing requirements are consistent with student abilities
Instructional Design and Delivery

- **Alignment to Learning Objectives**
  - Pace of the course is manageable
  - Learning objectives are clearly defined in the course
  - Learning activities support stated learning outcomes
  - Specific directions on where to access needed resources for the course
Assessment and Evaluation

- Rich and Rapid feedback
- Students have online access to current grades
- Date/time an assignment is available
- The number of times an assessment may be taken
- If a proctored test is required contact information for the testing centers is provided
Structure of Navarro’s Online Developmental Math Classes

- Diagnostic pre-tests over each chapter
- Weekly assignments with late penalties
- Bi - Weekly discussion boards
- Lecture videos
- Outlines for note taking
- Weekly emails to struggling students
- Full-time instructors only
Changes for the Spring 2013

- Organizational Meetings
  - Study and time management skills
  - Expectations in an online class
  - How to use the Technology in the course

- Alternative Testing Times
Remember:

- Highly structured class
- Late penalties
- Flexible when needed or deserved
- Constant contact between instructor and students
QUESTIONS?

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