Improving the Math Placement Process
Helen Burn and Shannon Waits, AMATYC 2015
Goals for this session

• Examine research on institutional assessment and placement (A&P) practices and challenges

• Explain components of Highline College’s math placement redesign

• Describe evaluation plan for the redesign

• Questions and answers
Raise your hand if, at your college...

. . . math placement is a hot topic

. . . math placement tests are being examined or questioned

. . . you are using multiple measures to place students into their initial math class

. . . you are redesigning the math placement process

. . . students have access to ways to prepare for the math placement test
Relevant Research

• Focus shifting from dev math reform to institutional assessment and placement (A&P) redesign (Melguizo, Kosiewicz, Prather & Boss, 2014; Rodriguez, Bowden, Belfield, & Scott-Clayton, 2014)

• Initial math placement matters to student success (Bahr, 2010; Bettinger & Long, 2005; Melguizo, Kosiewicz, Prather, & Bos, 2014).

• A&P should be educative, use multiple measures, and encourage test preparation (Fay, Bickerstaff, & Hodara, 2013; Hughes & Scott-Clayton, 2011)
A&P Process is Educative and Participatory

Student

- Education Goals
- Prior Experience
- Course options and preparation resources
- Assessment Advisor and embedded math faculty

highline.edu
Use multiple measures

New to Highline College? What assessment path is the best for you?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Running Start</th>
<th>Graduated high school in the last 3 years</th>
<th>No prior college</th>
<th>Obtained a GED since 2014</th>
<th>Taken Placement test at another school in the last 2 years</th>
<th>Taken courses at another college</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COMPASS reading</td>
<td>High school transcripts</td>
<td>COMPASS Reading</td>
<td>GED transcripts</td>
<td>Placement reciprocity</td>
<td>Transcript evaluation</td>
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<tr>
<td>MyMathTest or high school transcripts</td>
<td>Smarter Balanced score</td>
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Welcome to your next success!

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Align placement test to math curriculum

Test 1: Introduction to Algebra
Test 2: Essentials of Int. Algebra
Test 3: Int. Algebra for Calculus
    Precalculus I
    Business Calculus
Test 4: Calculus

Historical Timeline:
1998: Exploring alternative intermediate algebra
2007: Dev math redesign begins
2010: Dev math redesign launches
2013: Compass replaced by MyMathTest
2015: A&P redesign launches

Funded through Gates, Lumina (AtD), College Spark
Provide students with options to brush-up math skills

- Live brush-up 3-5 per week
- Prep for College Math – MOOC

Goals:
Identify math pathway
Learn about test
Learn how to access study materials
Independent brush-up
Educate campus and community stakeholders about redesign

- Placement Advisory Group
- Department meetings
- Staff focus groups
- Professional Development Day
- Instruction Cabinet
- Student Service and advisor meetings
- Website
- Class presentations
- Job Aids
- Feeder HS districts
- Community partners
Partner Activity

• What are two things you would change about your placement testing process at your college?

• What are you happy with about your placement testing process?
Evaluating the redesign

Outcomes:
• Increase college math completion
• Increase dev math to college transition rates
• Decrease initial placement into dev math
• Evaluate individual elements of the A&P placement redesign

Measures:
• Institutional enrollment data
• State performance funding data (SAI)
• Locally collected data: surveys, focus group, placement center data
Questions?

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Highline Placement testing website:
https://placement.highline.edu/