

Assessment and Placement Action Project

The Action Project Commitment

Institution: Lakeland Community College

Planned Project kickoff date: April 2007

Target Project completion date: December 2009

Actual Project completion date:

A. Action Project Title:

Enhance Assessment and Placement of Incoming Students to Foster Learning

B. Action Project's Goal:

To improve current assessment and placement processes in order to ensure that there is accurate assessment of students' basic skills including math, reading, writing, and computer/technology literacy, followed by appropriate placement that will align with students' current level of performance.

C. AQIP Category:

Helping students learn

D. Rationale for Action Project:

College employees raised the concern about student assessment and placement during a "Conversation Day," with further discussion in subsequent forums. An employee vote identified assessment and placement as one of the top concerns. Faculty are concerned about students' basic skills, particularly in reading and writing. There is particular concern about high attrition in courses that are reading-intensive. Faculty feel strongly that students who are under prepared in reading, writing, mathematics, or computer/technology skills should receive remedial instruction to ensure that they have a greater chance of success in subsequent coursework.

Accountability related to student learning is at the forefront of discussions at the local, state, and national levels. Proper assessment and placement will allow Lakeland to obtain baseline data of students that will assist in assessing institutional effectiveness.

E. Organizational areas impacted by this Action Project:

The areas impacted by this Action Project include: Admissions, Counseling, Registration, Learning Center, faculty, and academic and support departments.

F. Key processes that will improve due to this Action Project:

Counseling, registration, remediation services, and course placement.

G. Explain the rationale for the length of time planned for this Action Project:

The action project will be broken down into several stages to allow for evaluation of the current process, involvement of key stakeholders in the revision process, implementation, evaluation, and refinement of the enhanced plan. The following milestones have been identified for this project:

Spring 2007 Process map current activities

Summer 2007 Establish baseline of current student grades in Math, English, and selected reading intensive courses

Review current Compass scores as they relate to course placement

Fall 2007 Review data and develop a plan to enhance assessment and placement, including communication strategies to stakeholders

May 2008 Implement plan

2009 Evaluate plan, make changes, and plan future steps

H. Plans to monitor and communicate progress related to the Action Project:

The Action Project will be communicated through LCC's AQIP webpage, ongoing updates at the Board of Trustee, Vice President's Academic Advisory Council (VPAAC), and Planning Advisory Council (PAC) meetings and President's Coffees (monthly employee sessions), the Lakelander (student newspaper), E-post (electronic newsletter), and employee e-mail.

I. Overall outcome measures of this Action Project:

The following measures will be used to determine success of the action project:

- Improved successful completion of first semester classes
- Improved successful completion of second semester classes
- Improved student retention rates
- Improved overall GPA

J. Strategies for maintaining organization enthusiasm for this Action Project:

- Ongoing communication
- Opportunities for broad based feedback
- Publication when milestones are achieved

K. Project leader:

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