

TOPIC: SUPPLEMENTAL ACADEMIC INSTRUCTION POLICY

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I. SUMMARY

House Bill 12-1155 and C.R.S. 23-1-113.1 give the Colorado Commission on Higher Education the authority to grant authorization to state supported institutions to offer Supplemental Academic Instruction (SAI). The attached SAI policy will allow state institutions the opportunity to offer courses to support students with limited academic deficiencies. The intent of the policy is to enable students who only require a minimal amount of academic support the opportunity to enter into credit-bearing courses, forgoing traditional remediation, with SAI support. Once the institution is authorized by the Commission they will be eligible to receive Colorado Opportunity Fund (COF) stipend payments from the state, pursuant to the C.R.S. 23-1-113.3.

Institutions who request authorization will submit a proposal to the Commission indicating how they plan to implement SAI. This proposal will include information about SAI assessment, cut scores, intervention process, and evaluation measures. Institutions will receive a preliminary three-year authorization, after which they will be re-evaluated on the success of their implementation of SAI based on student outcomes. The Department of Higher Education has taken on the responsibility of reporting student data for SAI students. An annual report will be produced and shared with the Commission.

II. BACKGROUND

The Remedial Education Policy review Advisory Board and task force was given a charge to create an SAI policy per the requirements of House Bill 12-1155. A Supplemental Academic Instruction (SAI) subcommittee was established in summer 2012 with representation from Adams State University, Colorado Community College System, Fort Lewis University, Metropolitan State University of Denver, University of Colorado system, Western State Colorado University and coordinated by the Department of Higher Education.

Feedback on the policy was received by Adams State University, Colorado Community College System, Colorado Department of Education, Colorado State University, Academic Council, Data Advisory Group, Student Affairs Council, Fort Lewis College, University of Northern Colorado, University of Colorado system, Colorado Mesa University, and Western State Colorado University.

III. STAFF ANALYSIS

Prior to this Supplemental Academic Instruction (SAI) policy, a student admitted into a four-year institution who scored below the remedial cut score was typically assigned to remedial instruction. This SAI policy provides institutions with an additional placement option for students who have met the institution's admission criteria but have test scores that are below the current "credit-bearing" thresholds. This SAI policy will allow institutions to assist some of these students in entering credit-bearing college courses and, as a result, expediting their time to degree.

Recent research on postsecondary remediation suggests that state policies are generally overly dependent on assessment results. As a result, students who can pass credit-bearing courses are often incorrectly assigned into remedial courses. The literature on this topic suggests that assignments into remedial or credit-bearing courses can be improved by incorporating the use of additional information regarding a student's preparation, such as reviewing the student's high school transcript and considering the amount of time between the assessment result and the last time a student enrolled in a rigorous preparatory course in the content area. It has been shown that, for many students, modest academic augmentations such as providing "supplemental" support like tutoring labs or "refresher courses" are sufficient in improving student outcomes in credit-bearing courses in English and mathematics.

As was presented to the CCHE at its December 2012 meeting, this SAI policy allows institutions to develop procedures to identify and review the academic background of students who meet admission criteria but have test scores slightly below the existing remedial cut scores found in the CCHE's Remedial Education Policy. Institutions who wish to use this policy will be required to submit their plans to the CCHE for review and approval. In addition, the policy requires institutions to monitor and report the outcomes of students re-assigned via SAI. The Department, in turn, is required to prepare a report on the academic outcomes of students who have been re-assigned via SAI.

This SAI policy is consistent with recommendations from policy and research organizations such as Complete College America, the Community College Research Center at Columbia University, the Dana Center at the University of Texas, the Education Commission of the States, and the California Acceleration Project.

IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Commission approve the attached Supplemental Academic Instruction policy.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

C.R.S. 23-1-113