

TOPIC: REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO OFFER SUPPLEMENTAL ACADEMIC INSTRUCTION FROM METROPOLITAN STATE UNIVERSITY OF DENVER

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I. SUMMARY

Metropolitan State University (MSU) of Denver is requesting authorization to begin offering Supplemental Academic Instruction (SAI), pursuant to C.R.S. 23-1-113(1.5) and the SAI policy (CCHE Policy I, W). Please see attached proposal (Attachment A). MSU Denver seeks authorization to offer credit bearing, COF eligible SAI for ENG 1010 and non-credit bearing, non-COF eligible SAI for MTH 1080, MTH 1310, MTH 1112, and MTH 1110.

C.R.S. 23-1-113.1 gives the Colorado Commission on Higher Education the authority to grant authorization to state supported institutions to offer SAI. The SAI policy allows state institutions the opportunity to offer courses to support students with limited academic deficiencies. Once the institution is authorized by the Commission they are eligible to receive Colorado Opportunity Fund (COF) stipend payments, pursuant to the C.R.S. 23-1-113.3.

According to CCHE policy, institutions seeking authorization to offer SAI must first submit a proposal to the Commission indicating how and for which students they intend to implement the option. Such proposals will include information about their SAI assessment plan, their definition of limited academic deficiency, placement scores, intervention processes, and evaluation measures. Institutions may receive preliminary three-year authorization, after which they will be re-evaluated on the success of their implementation of SAI. The Department of Higher Education has taken on the responsibility of collecting and analyzing student SAI records. The Department will report the outcomes of SAI programs on an annual basis.

II. BACKGROUND

Skill Area	ACT Subscore	SAT Subscore	Accuplacer Score
Mathematics	Math 19	Math 460	Elementary Algebra 85
Writing	English 18	Verbal 440	Sentence Skills 95
Reading	Reading 17	Verbal 430	Reading Comprehension 80

The table presented above shows the CCHE's current Remedial Education Policy placement scores. Institutions use these scores to determine if a student is ready to enter into a college level course in mathematics or English. Prior to the SAI policy, a student admitted into a four-year institution who scored a few points below the cut scores, were typically required to attend a community college for purposes of enrolling in remedial courses. The CCHE's SAI policy allows many such students to stay at their home institution and complete their general education course with SAI support, thus enabling them to finish college quicker with fewer obstacles.

For clarity of the attached proposal, the following definitions are used in the current SAI Policy.

Limited academic deficiency refers to the reading, writing and/or mathematics skills levels of a student who has been admitted to an institution, but has failed to meet the minimum threshold placement score for college level coursework as determined by the Remedial Education Policy. The range of placement scores that define limited academic deficiency may differ according to each institution's role and mission.

Credit-Bearing Supplemental Academic Instruction means credit-bearing co-requisite instruction in English or mathematics for students with limited academic deficiencies (as defined in section 2.03) that accompany credit-bearing college level, general education English and/or mathematics courses approved for statewide transfer pursuant to C.R.S. 23-1-125(3). SAI does not include basic skills courses, as defined in C.R.S. 23-1-113(1.5). Institutions will determine if SAI credits will be considered towards a degree. Authorized institutions will be eligible to receive Colorado Opportunity Fund (COF) stipend payments from the state, pursuant to the C.R.S. 23-1-113.3.

Noncredit-Bearing Supplemental Academic Instruction means noncredit-bearing co-requisite instruction in English or mathematics for students with limited academic deficiencies (as defined in section 2.03) that accompany credit-bearing college level, general education English and/or mathematics courses approved for statewide transfer pursuant to C.R.S. 23-1-125(3). SAI does not include basic skills courses, as defined in C.R.S. 23-1-113(1.5). Noncredit-bearing SAI will not be eligible for COF stipend payments from the state, pursuant to the C.R.S. 23-1-113.3.

III. STAFF ANALYSIS

Below is a brief overview of MSU Denver's SAI policy proposal request.

Definition of limited academic deficiency, cut scores and other benchmarks/measurements

MATHEMATICS

MSU Denver requires all students who score below a 19 on ACT Math (or if they have not taken it in 5 years) or below 460 on SAT Math to take the Accuplacer Elementary Algebra exam in order to determine placement. MSU Denver is

seeking authorization to offer non-credit bearing, non-COF eligible SAI for MTH 1080, MTH 1310, MTH 1112, and MTH 1110. Students who score in the range of 45-71 (MSU Denver's definition of limited academic deficiency as related to MTH 1080), and who wish to take MTH 1080, are prompted by the assessment and testing staff, advisors, or the math peer study department to take a secondary assessment. They may retake the secondary essay assessment one time.

ENGLISH

MSU Denver requires all students who score below an 18 on ACT English (or if they have not taken it in 5 years) or below 440 on SAT verbal to take the Accuplacer exam in order to determine placement. Students who score above 94 on the Sentence Skills Accuplacer are placed into College Level English. However, students who score between 80-94 (MSU-Denver's definition of limited academic deficiency) on the Sentence Skills Accuplacer exam will be expected to take a secondary assessment, which will take the form of an essay, to help determine course placement.

Interventions and processes for SAI students;

MATHEMATICS

MSU Denver requires all students who score below a 19 on ACT Math (or if they have not taken it in 5 years), or below 460 on SAT Math to take the Accuplacer Elementary Algebra exam in order to determine placement. Students who score in the range of 45-71 (MSU Denver's definition of limited academic deficiency as related to MTH 1080), and who wish to take MTH 1080, are prompted by the assessment and testing staff, advisors, or the math peer study department to take the secondary assessment. They may retake the secondary essay assessment one time. MSU Denver will enforce prerequisites on each Math section to ensure that students may only register for courses for which they are eligible. Thus, a student who scores 44 on the Math Accuplacer will not be able to register for MTH 1080. Students who score in the peer study range will not have the option of taking the class without peer study.

ENGLISH

Students who score below 70 on the Accuplacer will be placed into remedial English at the community college. However, students have the option of retesting on the Accuplacer up to two times. An assessment score of 70-94 will automatically prompt the secondary essay assignment. A team, composed of selected SAI instructors, will also assess the secondary assessment according to a standard rubric. The student must score at least a one in every category in order to pass the secondary assessment. MSU Denver English faculty developed the secondary essay questions that require the student to write and respond to a selected essay prompt.

Communication

MATHEMATICS

The math peer study staff is composed of paid peer student math tutors, who spend at least an hour per week with each peer study section. Jean Ethredge tracks the satisfactory progress of peer study students and reports the progress to instructors. Students who are not making satisfactory progress are contacted by Ms. Ethredge and provided additional tutoring options and resources, including one on one tutoring.

ENGLISH

The team, composed of selected SAI instructors, will also assess the secondary assessment with the attached rubric. All English SAI faculty consists of English department faculty. Thus, English faculty will teach ENG 1010 and SAI sections. Drs. Parker and Chapman Vigil will also track the satisfactory progress of each SAI student and report the progress to the respective ENG 1010 and SAI instructors to ensure the student is making progress in both classes.

SAI content descriptions and co-requisite course description(s)

MATHEMATICS

The course description for the math non-credit SAI is as follows: *The MSU Denver Mathematics Peer Study Program (MPSP) is a series of instructor-supervised learning sessions organized to supplement the course material from MTH 1080, MTH 1110, MTH 1112 and MTH 1310.*

ENGLISH

The English SAI catalogue course description is as follows: *This one-hour lab provides supplemental academic instruction with an emphasis on the relationship of reading and grammar to writing.*

SAI assessment plan with benchmarks/measurements of student success.

MSU Denver's measures for success will include the following:

- Within three years, MSU Denver expects course grades for students in SAI sections to be comparable to students enrolled in the gateway courses with no SAI for both English and Math.
- The average MSU-Denver retention rate for remedial students is 58%, while the average retention for all students is 65%. MSU-Denver expects the fall to fall retention rates for students in SAI sections to measure closely to the fall to fall retention rate for all students.

Please note that ENG 1008/1009, which are pending Commission action for inclusion in the gtPathways curriculum may, together, be a substitute for ENG 1010. ENG 1008 and ENG 1009 together provide content identical to that found in ENG 1010, but it is offered over two semesters instead of one. Consequently, if the Commission takes action to adopt ENG 1008/1009 into the state's gtPathways curriculum, subsequent action regarding SAI for these courses may be necessary.

Additionally, please note that the following courses discussed in MSU Denver's proposal fall under neither the CCHE's Remedial Education nor SAI policies, and therefore are not presented for action herein: MTH 1310, MTH 1112, MTH 1110.

III. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Department staff recommends that the Commission authorize Metropolitan State University of Denver's ENG1010 (Composing Arguments) and MTH 1080 (Mathematical Modes of Thought) as Supplemental Academic Instruction eligible courses.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

C.R.S. 23-1-113.3