



Request for SAI Authorization

December, 2013

This is a request for Supplemental Academic Instruction (SAI) authorization at Western State Colorado University, pursuant to C.R.S. 23-1-113(1.5). We are requesting approval for COF eligible, credit-bearing SAI for English and Math (Section 2.06 of the SAI policy). Our overall goal of the SAI program is to provide supplementary support in 100-level English and Math Essential Skills courses for students with limited academic deficiencies, increasing their overall success in our GE gateway courses and beyond.

In accordance with policy, then, this proposal will explain Western's plan for implementing SAI, including our SAI evaluation of basic skills assessment, interventions and processes for SAI students, communication between SAI faculty and entry-level credit bearing course faculty, SAI staffing and support, SAI content descriptions and co-requisite course descriptions, and an SAI assessment plan.

SAI Evaluation of Basic Skills Assessment

Currently, Western defines remedial needs in English and Math the following way:

English: students scoring below 18 on ACT English and 17 on ACT Reading, below SAT Verbal Score of 440, or below Accuplacer Reading Comprehension score of 80 and Accuplacer Sentence Skills score of 95 must pass Basic Writing (ENG 099) prior to enrolling in ENG 102, Academic Writing.

Math: students scoring below 19 on ACT Math, below 460 on SAT Math, or below 85 on Accuplacer Elementary Algebra must pass Intermediate Algebra (MATH 099) prior to enrolling in Math for Liberal Arts (MATH 105), Math for Social Sciences (MATH 131), or College Algebra (MATH 140). If students score below 16 on ACT Math, below 400 on SAT Math, or below 60 on Accuplacer Elementary Algebra, they must pass Beginning Algebra (MATH 98) prior to enrolling in MATH 099.

For fall semester, 2014, Western will change the prerequisites for existing 100-level math courses in 2014-15, including the following:

Mathematics for the Liberal Arts (MATH 105) - ACT Math score of 19 or above; SAT Math score of 460 or above; MATH 099; or Accuplacer Elementary Algebra test score of 85 or above; or corequisite MATH 100.

College Algebra (MATH 140) - ACT Math score of 21 or above; SAT Math score of 500 or above; MATH 099; or Accuplacer Elementary Algebra test score of 85 or above; or co-requisite MATH 102.

There are no planned changes for the prerequisites for ENG 102 – Academic Writing.

Also, starting in the fall semester, 2014, Western would like to offer SAI courses in Math and English, as part of our SAI pilot program. Accordingly, incoming and current students with limited academic deficiency will be encouraged to enroll in regular, credit-bearing Math and English courses and take SAI courses as co-requisites to our traditional 100-level GE courses in English and Math. For the first year, as a pilot SAI program, we plan to provide SAI offerings for MATH 140 (College Algebra) and English 102 (Academic Writing) only. In the future, based on the pilot program, it is possible we will offer an SAI offering for MATH 105 (Mathematics for the Liberal Arts).

Western will define “limited academic deficiency” as follows:

For English = incoming students with an ACT English score of 15-17* and a high school GPA of 2.75 or higher.

For Math = incoming students with an ACT Math score of 17-20* and a high school GPA of 2.75 or higher.

*Or equivalent score on SAT, Accuplacer, Compass, PARCC, or Smarter Balance.

Our secondary assessment is high school GPA, which is known to be a strong predictor variable for overall academic success in higher education. In addition, we think the use of a high school GPA is best for our incoming students, for this measurement will not require them to complete a second assessment in the midst of registering for classes. Thus, for “predictor” value and feasibility, we have decided on the high school GPA as secondary assessment. By setting it at 2.75, with the proposed cut scores in place, we estimate 50% of the current remedial pool will qualify for SAI courses.

Interventions and Processes for SAI students

Incoming first-year students who qualify with “limited academic deficiency” will be individually contacted by advisors in our Academic Resource Center and encouraged to participate in SAI, as opposed to our existing remedial courses. Because SAI is voluntary, students choosing not to enroll in SAI courses will be required to pass an existing remedial course prior to enrolling in 100-level Math or English GE courses.

Current students with fewer than 30 earned credit hours and limited academic deficiency will be notified by campus email during spring semester that they qualify for SAI and will be provided instructions on how to enroll in SAI coursework.

Once enrolled in the SAI courses, students will work closely with faculty on content related to gateway courses (see course descriptions below) as well as broader, academic issues. For the pilot program, Western will offer four sections of ENG 100 and five/six sections of MATH 102, both newly

created SAI courses, accommodating up to 180 students (duplicated count). By comparison, in this 2013-14 year, we expect roughly 300 students to enroll in MATH 098, 099, and ENG 099 (duplicated count).

Students unable to complete ENG 102 and ENG 100, or MATH 140 and MATH 102, will be encouraged to enroll in remedial coursework.

Communication Among SAI Faculty

A representative in the Office of Academic Affairs will organize 2-3 annual sessions for the SAI faculty to gather and share information and oversee program assessment. In addition, a listserv will be created to keep SAI faculty and department chairs apprised of SAI developments. Faculty teaching SAI are also involved in the delivery of our gateway courses. This overlap is by design: SAI faculty are part of the larger English and Math programs and attend bi-monthly meetings whereby they share information.

In addition, an annual report on SAI offerings will be prepared by the Office of Academic Affairs in the spring of each year which will be shared with SAI faculty, school administrators, and other units on campus.

SAI Staffing and Support

The SAI liaison for Western is Dr. Terry Schliesman, AVPAA. The Math SAI liaison is Dr. Kim Fix, Assistant Professor of Mathematics. The English SAI liaison is Jennifer McArdle, Director of Western's Writing Program and Instructor of English. The SAI program is supported through the Office of Academic Affairs (970-943-3045).

SAI Content Descriptions

Here are catalog descriptions for Math and English SAI courses at Western, approved by the Faculty Senate in November, 2012:

MATH 102 College Algebra Skills

1 credit

A review of the math skills necessary to succeed in MATH 140, College Algebra. Prerequisites: an assessment equivalent to ACT math score between 17-20; a SAT Math score between 410-490; an Accuplacer Elementary Algebra score between 60-84; or a Compass Algebra score between 26-44; and a high school GPA of 2.75 or higher. Co-requisite MATH 140. Note: this course is intended for those students wanting to complete the Supplemental Academic Instruction (SAI) program in Math.

ENG 100 Supplemental Academic Writing

1 credit

Provides co-requisite, supplemental instruction for students enrolled in ENG 102. Students will practice employing rhetorical knowledge; using writing processes; developing critical reading and writing strategies; and using effective written communication to demonstrate comprehension of content knowledge. Prerequisites: an assessment equivalent to ACT English score between 15-17; a SAT Writing score between 380-430; or an Accuplacer Reading score between 53-79 and Accuplacer Sentence Skills score between 66-

87; or a Compass Writing Skills score of 49-73; and a high school GPA of 2.75 or higher. Co-requisite ENG 102. Note: this course is intended for those students wanting to complete the Supplemental Academic Instruction (SAI) program in English.

In addition, these are our co-requisite course descriptions:

MATH 140 College Algebra

3 credits

An integration of the essential algebraic manipulations, solving equations and inequalities, polynomial functions, exponential and logarithmic functions, and techniques of graphing. Prerequisite: ACT math score of 21 or above; SAT math score of 500 or above; MATH 099; or Accuplacer Elementary Algebra test score of 85 or above; or co-requisite MATH 102.

ENG 102 Academic Writing

3 credits

Provides students the opportunity to practice strategies for developing writing projects on unfamiliar topics in unfamiliar formats to become more effective and efficient writers. Writers learn to practice strategies for making writing more comprehensible for readers and to use a wide range of writing processes for getting started, developing, organizing, and polishing writing projects. Prerequisites (one of the following): ENG 099; ACT English score of 18 or higher to demonstrate writing proficiency and ACT Reading score of 17 or higher to demonstrate reading proficiency; SAT Critical Reading score of 440 or higher to demonstrate writing proficiency and SAT Critical Reading score of 430 or above to demonstrate reading proficiency; Accuplacer Sentence Skills test score of 95 or higher and Accuplacer Reading Comprehension test score of 80 or higher; or combination of ACT, SAT, and Accuplacer scores to fulfill both reading and writing proficiencies; or co-requisite ENG 100.

Once we complete the pilot SAI program, we will evaluate our overall SAI experience and determine what adjustments and additions we would like to make, including a possible offering of MATH 100 as a co-requisite for Math 105, Mathematics for the Liberal Arts. Because Western seldom offers MATH 131 (Mathematics for Social Sciences), the SAI co-requisite of MATH 101 is not being considered at this time, but will be listed in the Catalog for future use.

SAI Assessment Plan

Starting January 2015, we will compare bi-annually our SAI student performance data with data from those students in previous years and in similar score ranges taking remedial coursework, followed then by the gateway course (as defined as ENG 102 or 100-level MATH). Our goal is to produce stronger outcomes in the SAI model as compared to the remedial model.

What's more, Western expects that within three years, course grades for SAI sections will be comparable to students without academic deficiencies enrolled in the gateway courses with no SAI for English and Math.

Conclusion

Western State Colorado University has spent over a year preparing for SAI, and we are excited to submit this plan for what we believe will be a successful pilot program. Along with universities and colleges across the state, we think SAI will better serve Colorado's higher education needs by expanding opportunities for those students with limited academic deficiencies. We see SAI as a natural fit for our culture of sustained and highly personalized student support and welcome CHE's feedback on our request for SAI authorization. Thank you for your consideration.

 12/23/13

President Brad Baca **Date**
Western State Colorado University

 12.23.13

VPAA Dr. Bill Niemi **Date**
Western State Colorado University