



COLORADO
Department of
Higher Education

What is Supplemental Academic Instruction?

Colorado is a leader in developing and rolling out SAI (more commonly known across the country as “co-requisite remediation”) as a solid strategy to reduce remediation rates.

For example, SAI allows students “with limited academic deficiencies” at a four-year institution to get the academic support they need on campus rather than having to attend remedial courses off-site at a community college. For the community college system, it means fewer required remedial courses and improved completion rates. Students who need remediation are less likely to complete their degree than those who don’t need remediation.

The intent of the SAI policy (result of HB 12-1155 and C.R.S. 23-1-113.1) 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. Currently four institutions are authorized to offer SAI: MSU Denver, Colorado Community College System, Western State Colorado University and Aims Community College.

Recent research on 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. It has been shown that, for many students, modest academic interventions, such as tutoring labs or “refresher courses,” are sufficient in improving student outcomes in credit-bearing courses in English and math.

To be approved to offer SAI, campuses must provide a proposal for approval to the CCHE. The proposal should include: SAI assessment, cut scores, intervention process and evaluation measures. Institutions receive a preliminary three-year authorization, after which they will be reevaluated on the success of their implementation of SAI based upon student outcomes.

The Colorado Department of Higher Education will share an annual report with the commission.

April 2014