

TOPIC: REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO OFFER SUPPLEMENTAL ACADEMIC INSTRUCTION FROM AIMS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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I. SUMMARY

Aims Community College is requesting authorization to offer 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). Aims seeks authorization to offer credit-bearing SAI for (College Composition and Reading) CCR 093 – Studio D and CCR 094 – Studio 121 and (Mathematics) MAT 092 – Quant Lab and MAT 093 – Algebra Lab.

II. BACKGROUND

C.R.S. 23-1-113.1 gives the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (Commission) the authority to grant authorization to state supported institutions to offer SAI. The SAI policy, adopted by the Commission in 2013, allows state institutions the opportunity to offer courses to support students with limited academic deficiencies. Once authorized by the Commission, an institution is eligible to receive Colorado Opportunity Fund (COF) stipend payments, pursuant to the C.R.S. 23-1-113.3.

According to CCHE’s SAI policy, institutions planning to offer SAI must submit a proposal to the Commission indicating how and for which students they intend to implement the option. Proposals will include information about the institution’s SAI assessment plan, its 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 (Department) 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.

The table below shows Colorado’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 English and/or mathematics. Prior to the SAI policy, a student admitted into a four-year institution that scored a few points below the cut scores was typically required to enroll in a community college for 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 faster with fewer obstacles.

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

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.

** Institutions with a two-year role and mission may receive COF for basic skills courses pursuant to C.R.S. 23-1-113.3. (This note does not appear in the SAI policy)*

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

Remedial education is changing nationally. While Colorado is out in the front of this change in many ways, it is likely that some of the definitions and approaches currently in use will continue to evolve. The term “supplemental academic instruction” is not a nationally accepted term, rather it is a Colorado-specific term, defined in Colorado statute and policy as assistance provided to students who fall slightly below the college-ready “cut score” who would otherwise be placed into traditional remedial coursework. Many states are implementing other new approaches to remedial education, including accelerated courses, parallel laboratories, and various forms of co-requisite remediation. In this changing environment, it is becoming increasingly difficult to

differentiate clearly between remedial education, approaches that we call supplemental academic instruction, co-requisite remedial education and other approaches to supporting students.

DHE is working under the assumption that SAI and co-requisite remedial education are the same. The Colorado interpretation of this practice includes allowing students with “limited academic deficiency” into college-level courses attached to co-requisite courses with supplemental academic instruction to support their learning also known as just in time remediation. DHE is asking all institutions across the state working with students in this range to submit proposals to obtain authorization to develop special programs to work with these students in this manner. DHE is also asking institutions to report data on these students a certain way through SURDS. This will give the state more information on which programs are working to create success for students with “limited academic deficiency”.

Following are the specifics of the Aims Community College SAI authorization request.

I. Definition of limited academic deficiency and cut scores:

ENGLISH

AIMS will use the Accuplacer to assist with course placement.

Limited academic deficiency is defined by the Accuplacer scores below (RC= Reading comprehension, SS= Sentence skills):
CCR 093 - RC 62-79 and/or SS 70-94 or both
CCR 094 - RC 62-79 and/or SS 70-94 or both

MATHEMATICS

AIMS will use the Accuplacer to assist with course placement.

Limited academic deficiency is defined using the Accuplacer scores below (EA=Elementary Algebra):
MAT 092 – EA 80-84
MAT 093 – EA 80-84

Aims will advise students on course placement based on their assessment scores. They have created a program for students in development education called emerging scholars program which provides layers of support for students to help them transition to college-level courses. Aims will measure SAI student success by successful completion of the college-level gtPathways course, enrollment in future college-level courses and successful completion of future college-level course.

IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Department staff recommends the Commission formally authorize AIMS to offer SAI for CCR 093 (Studio D), CCR 094 (Studio 121), MAT 092 (Quant Lab), and MAT 093 (Algebra Lab).

V. STATUTORY AUTHORITY

C.R.S. 23-1-113

23-1-113. Commission directive - admission standards for baccalaureate and graduate institutions of higher education - policy – definitions

(1.5) (a) (I) The commission shall establish and the governing boards shall implement a policy pursuant to [section 23-1-113.3](#) to identify matriculated students who need basic skills courses in English and mathematics and standards and procedures whereby state institutions of higher education may offer basic skills courses as provided in [section 23-1-113.3](#). The commission, in consultation with the governing boards, shall ensure that the policy aligns with the admission policy adopted pursuant to subsection (1) of this section. In identifying the standards for basic skills, the commission may differentiate requirements for mathematics based on the prerequisite skills needed for required courses within a student's declared program of study.

(II) As part of the policy established pursuant to this paragraph (a), the commission may authorize a state institution of higher education to provide supplemental academic instruction even though the institution is not authorized to provide basic skills courses pursuant to [section 23-1-113.3](#). The institution may receive stipend payments from the state pursuant to [section 23-18-202](#) on behalf of an eligible undergraduate student, as defined in [section 23-18-102 \(5\)](#), who is enrolled in a college-level course that includes supplemental academic instruction.

ATTACHMENT A: Aims Community College SAI Plan