MATH COMMON COURSE ALIGNMENT WORKSHOP

Date: Friday, February 29, 2008
Time: 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Location: Daytona Beach Community College
Building 130
1200 W. International Speedway Blvd.
Daytona Beach, FL 32120-2811

Participating Institutions:

- Brevard Community College
- Central Florida Community College
- Daytona Beach Community College
- Lake Sumter Community College
- Seminole Community College
- University of Central Florida
- Valencia Community College

AGENDA

Welcome and Introductions  Mike Cooney

Brief Summary of Workshop – Friday, September 28  Alison Morrison-Shetlar

Workshop Objectives – topics for discussion  All

- Review Contact Hour Data
- Alignment Through Common Outcomes
- Instructional Best Practices Examples by Course
  - MAC 1105
  - MAC 1114
  - MAC 1140
- Best Practices – General
- Assessments
- Possible Applied Algebra Course

Florida Two-Year College Math Association  Michael Jamieson

SharePoint Project  Mike Cooney


Next Steps & Wrap-up  Alison Morrison-Shetlar
SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

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Alison Morrison-Shetlar opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and providing a brief overview on the last Workshop held in September 2007.

Contact Hours

Following introductions, the Workshop began with a discussion about the information collected from each of the institutions regarding contact hours per course. It was agreed to add polynomials as a separate area, resend the spreadsheet to each of the institutions and ask them to update the information based on the new area. It was also agreed that a contact hour will represent a 50-minute period of time and does not include review or exam time.

Alignment Through Common Outcomes

The group agreed to meet again in the Fall to discuss and agree on specific learning outcomes for MAC 1105 and MAC 1140. MAC 1114 will not be discussed at this time. Marc Campbell and Mike Cooney will develop a template for the two courses and send it to each of the institutions to complete prior to the next meeting. At the end of the 2008 fall meeting, the primary deliverable will be an agreed upon list of learning outcomes for both MAC 1105 and MAC 1140, which will help guide the curriculum alignment process between and among the seven institutions in the future.

Best Practices

A variety of Best Practices were discussed and handouts were provided by VCC faculty, which are used to help students understand specific concepts for MAC 1105.
Tony Malaret with SCC stated that for MAC 1114, he applies one problem throughout half of the chapter to help students understand the relevance of the various components to the chapter’s content.

There was a lot of discussion regarding the use of calculators in specific courses. The majority of the institutions do not allow calculators, except for very specific applications.

It was also suggested to check out www.merlot.org as a resource for a variety of disciplines including mathematics.

Assessments

Only SCC used a quiz on the first day of class to determine how well prepared students are to begin the course. The quiz does not count and is only used as a basic assessment tool. Several courses use embedded questions as a pre and then post test of student learning. These questions allowed students to demonstrate their ability to ‘make sense’ of the problem or to ‘know if the calculation is close to being correct.

Applied Algebra Course

The need to create an Applied Algebra Course for specific degrees (i.e. Associate Degree in Nursing) has been discussed since the first meeting the group had in September 2006. However, based on feedback from their respective institutions, there does not appear to be much support.

Florida Two-Year College Math Association (FTYCMa)

Michael Jamieson from CFCC gave a brief update on the FTYCMa meeting in September 2007. He stated that the organization was not inclined to support creating a new Applied Algebra Course for degrees that do not require higher math beyond a certain point, which is consistent with what this group decided as well.

SharePoint Project

Mike Cooney stated that UCF Regional Campuses is creating a web site that will allow math faculty to continue discussions and collaboration between meetings. Everyone involved in the Math Common Course Alignment Workshops since the first meeting in September 2006 will be given access to the password-protected portion of the site. Faculty will be able to share curriculum, participate in blogs, post best practices and update peers on relevant math related issues. Additional information will be sent to everyone once the site is up and going. In the meantime, the online tutorial for SharePoint can be found at:


Next Steps

The group agreed to meet again in the Fall to compare and agree on learning outcomes for both MAC 1105 and MAC 1140. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 17, 2008.