

School Name Owensboro Community and Technical College, Owensboro, KY
Course Names Compass Boot Camp; College Connections Summer Bridge Program
Course Format Hybrid

Key Results On average, 92 percent of students retesting on the Compass advanced one or more developmental course levels; 80 percent retested college-ready.

Submitted by

Donna Butler, Coordinator of College Readiness

Course materials

MyFoundationsLab, Compass practice packet, online tutoring

All Kentucky high schools are required to provide academic intervention for high school seniors whose ACT scores indicate they are not yet college-ready. This intervention may take the form of a credit-bearing class or a defined bridge program, and formats vary. Owensboro Community and Technical College (OCTC) partners with 14 area high schools to offer college- and career-readiness courses designed to provide educational opportunities leading to college matriculation and future employment in high skill, high wage, and high-demand fields.

OCTC developed two programs that use MyFoundationsLab to provide needed instruction in reading, writing, or math: the one-week Compass Boot Camp and the two-week College Connections Bridge Program. Based on their scores on the Compass test, all students receive individualized instruction and practice in their specific areas of need. At the end of the week in the Boot Camp, they retake the Compass test. If they meet or exceed the required Compass score, they are allowed to dual-enroll in courses within their program of choice.

“On average, 80 percent of students retesting on the Compass test scored college-ready in reading, writing, or math.”

In the College Connections Bridge Program, students who need intervention in more than one area receive intensive, customized instruction in those targeted areas, and they also earn one credit hour for our Introduction to College course while shoring up their skills.

Implementation

We chose MyFoundationsLab for its breadth of coverage and its customizability. In both courses, we create individualized study plans to fit students' personal requirements. Students can focus their work on a single segment of MyFoundationsLab or complete the entire program depending on how much refreshment they need in any skills area. In addition to the mandatory lab time, students perform independent work in MyFoundationsLab outside of class. At the end of both courses, students retake the Compass test. Those who pass are allowed to enroll in credit-bearing courses right away, and those who pass the College Connections course also receive a credit hour for our first-year experience course.

Results and data

- On average, 92 percent of students retesting on the Compass test advanced one or more developmental course levels.
- On average, 80 percent of students retesting on the Compass scored as college-ready in reading, writing, or math.
- A full 100 percent of students working on reading and writing skills advanced one or more developmental course levels.

“We were very pleased with the high percentage of students making significant gains in our programs; especially notable was the fact that every single student who took the reading and writing modules advanced at least one developmental level.”

The student experience

Student feedback included the following:

“With MyFoundationsLab I improved my scores in reading, math, and English, something I didn’t think I would be able to do.”

Conclusion

We are very pleased with the high percentage of students making significant gains in our programs; especially notable is the fact that every single student who took the reading and writing modules advanced at least one developmental level. Students focus on exactly the content and instruction they need to make the requisite academic progress to begin their college programs. My dream is to create a mandatory open lab for all remedial students where they work through their MyFoundationsLab Learning Path on their own and at their own pace before the start of the semester. This would give them an opportunity to quickly improve their skills, retake the Compass test, and meet the required benchmarks to enroll in credit-bearing courses.

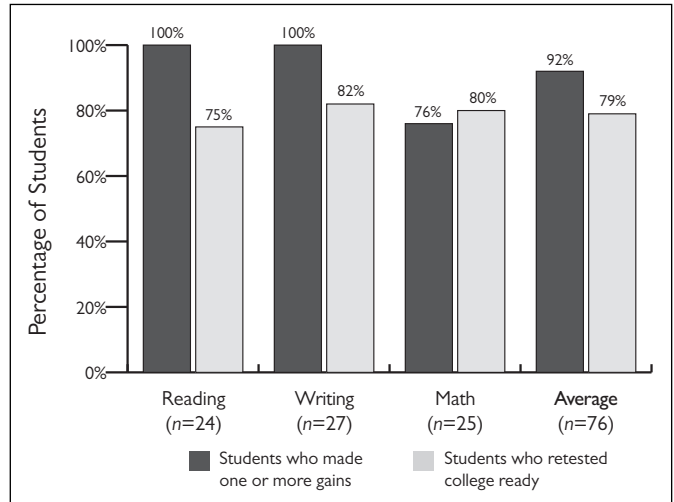


Figure 1. Boot Camps and College Connections Bridge Program Mean Results, Summer 2011-13 and Spring 2012. OCTC has two levels of developmental writing and reading and three levels of developmental math.