

Product Used **MyMathTest**
 Course Name **Preparation for Accuplacer Student Success (PASS)**
 Credit Hours **Zero**



KEY TAKE-AWAY

MyMathTest helps Palo Alto College incoming freshman improve their original placement exam scores and advance more quickly through noncredit, remedial math courses, as well as increase their success in subsequent courses.

Textbook in Use

N/A

Course Implementation

Course Design

Palo Alto College implemented MyMathTest into the college's PASS program in spring 2010. Under the new format, students spend a total of 10 to 15 hours in an on-campus computer lab, working on individualized study plans created by a specially designed MyMathTest course. The goal of the course is to help students improve upon their previous Accuplacer placement scores. An instructor is available in the computer lab at all times to answer questions and provide assistance.

Assessments

Students who complete the MyMathTest remediation may retake the placement exam to determine how far they have advanced.

Use of MyMathTest

Students use the program's individualized study plans and are encouraged to take advantage of its many learning aids, including videos as well as the Help Me Solve This and View an Example features.

Results and Data

Patrick Lee, math department chair and associate professor of mathematics, compared students' spring 2010 through summer 2011 Accuplacer scores before and after completion of the MyMathTest-enabled PASS program.

The data in Table 1 and table 2 provide an analysis of how many students completed the program (meaning, retook the Accuplacer placement test at the end of the course), how many levels they improved after completing the course, and into what courses they were qualified to enter afterward.

Of those students who retook the placement exam, 68.29 percent advanced at least once course level and up to as many as four course levels.

That kind of significant advancement results in both time and cost savings for students because they move more quickly through the developmental math sequence—a sequence of courses that offer vital remediation but no college credit.

Table 3 indicates that the PASS program also helps increase students' subsequent success—an impressive 77.5 percent of former PASS students earned an A, B, or C in their follow-up course in their first attempt.

MyMathTest is an invaluable asset to our PASS program. It offers my instructors a powerful tool for intervention and offers my students an effective tool for subsequent course success.

—Patrick Lee
Palo Alto College

	Registered	Completed	Advanced 0 Courses	Advanced 1 Course	Advanced 2 Courses	Advanced 3 Courses	Advanced 4 Courses	Total Advanced
Number of students	431	350	193	109	93	32	5	239
Percent of students (based on number registered)			44.78	25.29	21.58	7.42	1.16	55.45
Percent of students (based on number completed)			32.00	31.14	26.57	9.14	1.43	68.29

Table 1. Analysis of PASS Program Student Gains by Level Advancement, Spring 2010 through Summer 2011 (n=431)

	Registered	Completed	Introduction to Algebra	Elementary Algebra	Intermediate Algebra	College Algebra
Number of students	431	350	35	83	91	30
Percent of students (based on number registered)			8.12	19.26	21.11	6.96
Percent of students (based on number completed)			10.00	23.71	26.00	8.57

Table 2. Analysis of PASS Program Student Gains by Course Advancement, Spring 2010 through Summer 2011 (n=431)

Number of Students Enrolling in Follow-up Course	Number of Students Earning A/B/C during First Attempt	Percent of Students Earning A/B/C during First Attempt
80	62	77.50%

Table 3. Success Rate for Students Enrolled in Follow-up Course during Summer 2010, Fall 2010, and/or Spring 2011 (n=80)

The Student Experience

Lee reports that he and the other instructors “receive nothing but praise from our students for MyMathTest’s ease of use and its ability to help them prepare for the placement exam.”

Conclusions

“MyMathTest is an essential part of our PASS sessions,” says Lee. “As a result of their work in MyMathTest, students can pinpoint potential deficiencies and correct such deficiencies quickly and easily.”

By enabling Palo Alto College to more appropriately place its students, MyMathTest helps many students bypass developmental math courses that would have cost them valuable time and money.

Submitted by Patrick Lee, Math Department Chair and Associate Professor
Palo Alto College