

Product Used **MyMathTest**
 Course Name **Math Compass Brush Up Sessions**
 Credit Hours **Zero**



UNIVERSITY of HAWAII
KAPI'OLANI
 COMMUNITY COLLEGE

KEY TAKE-AWAY

By creating a supportive environment using MyMathTest and peer tutors in short, math refresher courses, KCC students overcome math anxiety and are better prepared for math placement tests. By scoring higher, students save significant amounts of tuition dollars.

Textbook in Use

N/A

Course Implementation

Course Design

Implemented in summer 2009, the Math Compass Brush Up Sessions is a pilot project comprising refresher courses for high school students who have been accepted into Kapi'olani Community College (KCC). The objective of the sessions is to help new students improve both their Math Compass Placement Test scores and their attitudes toward math itself. Sessions included five days of two-hour, hands-on tutorial support. Students may attend a second week if they need more assistance. Peer tutors are KCC students with previous tutoring experience and who have completed at least College Algebra.

The Noel-Levitz College Success Inventory (CSI) is used to identify potentially at-risk students based on acknowledged academic needs, apprehension, and receptivity. After completing the online inventory, students meet individually with a counselor to discuss their results and to connect with appropriate campus resources.

MyMathTest is used to identify areas of weakness and of improvement and to provide the learning tools needed to increase math comprehension. Students may retest the math portion of the Compass exam after completing MyMathTest assignments and consulting with peer tutors.

Assessments

Students completed a diagnostic test in MyMathTest. They then worked on their MyMathTest Study Plan at home or with peer tutors. When ready, they completed a MyMathTest posttest and decided whether or not to retake the Math Compass Placement Test.

Use of MyMathLab

MyMathTest was used for pre- and posttests, the study plan, and homework assignments.

Results and Data

Post-Brush Up Compass Placement Test scores indicate that in 2010 there were improvements to nearly all the students' raw scores, and that nearly 50 percent of students advanced at least one course level. Of the 19 students who retested,

18 improved their raw score. Of those 18, four improved by one course level, two improved by two course levels, two improved by three course levels, and one improved by five course levels.

Because MyMathTest is so user-friendly, students had few questions about the program itself. Students and peer tutors were able to spend class time productively addressing math concerns.

—Sheldon Tawata, Coordinator
Kapi'olani Community College

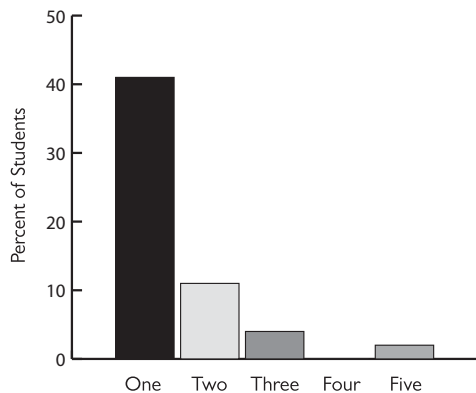


Figure 1. Comparison of Course-Level Improvement after Brush Up Sessions and Retesting, Summers 2009 and 2010 ($n = 56$)

Figure 1 shows the combined student gains for summers 2010 and 2011.

What's more, of those 2010 summer students who improved one or more course levels, a full 50 percent successfully passed their subsequent course.

The Student Experience

Peer tutors noticed more participation by students in small-group settings—in which small groups of students sat facing each other—versus in larger classroom settings in which students sat at rows of tables facing forward.

By retesting into higher-level math courses, students save both time and money. For example, tuition for the precollege mathematics course during 2010–11 academic year is \$528; tuition for Introduction to Algebra and subsequent math courses is \$261. A student advancing from precollege mathematics to a higher-level math course saves \$267.

Most important, the Brush Up Sessions with MyMathTest worked.

- “What helped me to improve my score was the [MyMathTest] study plan. It helped me to refresh my brain.”
- “[MyMathTest] helped me out a lot when I had problems.”
- “[MyMathTest] taught me to understand the problems better.”

Conclusions

The MyMathTest-enabled Brush Up Sessions successfully provided students with a safe way to address their fears and concerns around math. By combining online and in-person support, the program was able to address students in the manner in which this generation most effectively learns—and retains—information.

KCC looks forward to continuing the summer program—and its use of MyMathTest—in an effort to enable students to better bridge the transition from high school to college. Possible changes to next summer's program include reducing the cost of the course to \$10.

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