Course Implementation

Bowling Green Technical College (BGTC) redesigned its developmental math sequence in fall 2011. In addition to improving student retention and success in college-level courses, BGTC’s redesign was motivated by consistent enrollment growth—enrollment in developmental math increased by 20 percent between fall 2009 and fall 2010. Faculty sought a way to leverage their resources in order to serve more students, while still providing a highly effective learning experience. Each redesigned course includes six modules delivered via MyMathLab. All students begin with the first module of their respective course and complete each module in sequential order. At the start of each module, students take a module exam. Students who score of 70 or more on the exam may move to the next module; those who score less than 70 are required to complete module coursework—interactive lessons, homework and quizzes—and must earn a score of 70 or more before retaking the module exam. Upon successful completion of all six modules, students must pass a common final exam to complete the course.

Results and Data

Student common final exam scores improved in both Prealgebra and Basic Algebra (table 1).

Students receive an MP grade if, by the end of the semester, they have completed at least three of six modules with a mastery of 70 percent or more. In the traditional course, not completing all course content required the student to retake the entire course. In the redesigned course, students receive the MP grade and pick up where they left off in a subsequent semester. When taking into account MP grades, completion rates improved in the redesign (table 2).

Conclusions

BGTC is very pleased with the redesign, which helps students focus only on the areas where they need remediation. The math department will continue to improve the redesign each semester and anticipates seeing even higher gains.