Finding Our Way

A New Placement System @ Portland Community College

July 27, 2017
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The Project & The Process

Project: Develop a new placement system to replace the Compass Test

Process
- Visioning, Value Mapping and System Development
- Pre-launch
- November 1, 2016 - Launch of Phase I (Last Board update: Nov. 15, 2016)
- Post-launch
- Phase II activities
- Identification of and addressing emerging needs
- System institutionalization
Visioning and Value Mapping

Work completed summer 2015

Process and decisions:

- Focused on creating an equitable and inclusive process
- An ideal but feasible model grounded in research and best practice

Acknowledgements:

- The traditional system had not been accurately placing students.
- Underplacement is an impediment to student success and completion.
**Philosophical Shift**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>From</th>
<th>To</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Standardized Placement Test Scores</td>
<td>Multiple Measures including high school academic info, standardized test scores and PCC advisor recommendations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic Information only</td>
<td>Academic AND Non-Academic Information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No intentionality</td>
<td>Intentional focus on creating an equitable and inclusive process grounded in research and best practice</td>
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Pre-Launch Work

Work completed summer and fall 2016

- Banner programming / IT work / Web upgrades
- 25 ‘pre-launch’ presentations to internal groups
- Formal training for 350 staff across the College
- Daily communication with DOS/IT/Web Team/Systems Team
- Policy and procedure development and documentation
**Post-Launch Work**

Work completed November 2016 - January 2017

- Identify and resolve technical glitches
- Identify and resolve policy / procedure gaps
- Clarification of staff / department roles
- Ongoing communication to stakeholders
- Gather and respond to feedback
**Phase II Work**

Work ongoing March 2017 - present

- Collect and Analyze Data - refining success metrics
- Alignment with Advising Reform Work
- Additional technical tweaks/upgrades
- Development of ‘non-academic’ measures
- Further development of ESOL process
Emerging Discoveries

Many things were uncovered as we rolled out the new practice

The new system is more complex & harder to explain so we need to:

- Develop and document new procedures / policies
- Apply practices and procedures consistently across campuses
- Ensure that advising for placement is not affected by different staffing models on different campuses
- Provide better student support in and out of the classroom
Institutionalization

Work ongoing May 2017 - present

- System evaluation (using data) and ongoing evolution
- Finalize an “institutional home” for the process
- Identify, support and enforce ‘who is responsible for what’
- Engage SACs, faculty, advising, testing and systems support in the overall governance of the process
Early Impacts

Trends

- Nearly doubled the number of students receiving initial placement assessment at admission
- Lower enrollments in RD/WR 80, 90 and MTH 20
- More students placing out of reading
- Greater systemic support for early academic planning
# Preliminary Numbers

- **# of students who have gone through the new process since Nov. 1:** 13,176
- **% of students enrolled in math, reading and/or writing courses who went through ‘new’ process:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>% of enrollments from new (multiple measures) process</th>
<th>% of enrollments from the old (Compass) process</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Winter 2017</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring 2017</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
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</table>
## FY 17 Budget / Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Strategic Budget</th>
<th>Testing Budget</th>
<th>FY17 Expended*</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Casual Advising</td>
<td>98,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>97,855</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test licensing</td>
<td>67,000</td>
<td>104,000</td>
<td>106,460*</td>
</tr>
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*The new system was only in effect for ¾ of the FY17 year. Testing license expenses are lower than what we will expect next year. ALEKS testing only bills twice a year, so we only paid 50% of projected annual costs for ALEKS in FY17.*
And the Journey Continues...

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