

Strategic Initiatives Steering Committee * Project Proposal

Subcommittee: Academic Placement and Support Subcommittee

Name of Proposed Action: Block Scheduling

Description of Proposed Action:

We propose for the implementation of Block Scheduling for new incoming First-year students.

"Block scheduling" refers to scheduling of courses in a block or set. This type of scheduling allows for courses that complement each other to be taken simultaneously by a cohort of students. Student cohorts build relationships amongst peers and increase learning. In addition, this allows for students to be enrolled in appropriate coursework to ensure compliance with Executive Order 1110, mandating for "successful completion of general education written communication and mathematics/quantitative reasoning courses in the first year of CSU enrollment."

What population or populations does this project serve to impact in Spring 2018? Fall 2018 and/or beyond?

- New First-year students for fall 2018 who have not achieved college level Math/Quantitative Reasoning & English readiness
- Current CI students who have not completed Math/English remediation

Outcomes: CI data shows that students in linked/learning community classes have a 4-10% higher retention rate as opposed to students who are not in such classes. Proposing to have block scheduling will allow for incoming new First-year students and students who have not completed Mathematics/Quantitative Reasoning/English Composition to have an increased chance of retention after their first year and continued persistence to their degree.

What is the data or evidence that we will examine to gauge the effectiveness of the project?

It is recommended for a committee to be formed composing Enrollment Management areas and Academic Programs to examine the following data points:

- Academic success of first year students in B4: Math & Quantitative Reasoning/A2: Written Composition Requirement
- How many complete B4: Math & Quantitative Reasoning/A2: Written Composition Requirement within first year
- Look at comparable institutions that have block scheduling and compare retention rates
- Look at learning communities and the retention rates of those students
- Trend analysis of First-year students and multiple cohorts
- Progress towards degree

What is the implementation timeline? Include budget and/or allocation determination.

- Short Term (Math/Quantitative Reasoning/English Composition)- implement for summer 2018 for new fall 2018 First-year students registration
 - During Spring 2018, fall Math/Quantitative Reasoning/English courses need to be created, confirmed, and submitted
 - Currently, Enrollment Management areas are developing a plan to assign Math/Quantitative Reasoning/English Composition courses to incoming First-year students so they are block registered for fall 2018
 - Implementation: Summer 2018 for all new incoming First-year students for fall 2018 term
- Long Term (other academic courses)
 - Implement for summer 2019 for fall 2019 new First-year students registration
 - Curriculum needs to be developed and submitted for review in spring semester

- Budget needs to be allocated for
 - Development and creation of Math/QR & English composition courses for all incoming First-year students
 - Hiring of composition instructors
 - Hiring of Math/QR instructors
 - Director of Math/QR courses (~ to Director of Composition courses)
 - Responsible for training, hiring, & faculty development of instructors
 - Funds for faculty development for all Math/QR/English composition instructors
 - Professional Staff Member to oversee the coordination of student placement, registration, technology, and evaluation.
 - Budget allocated for University support course (co-requisite course)
 - Budget to further explore the capabilities of existing technology tools such as Schedule Planner, Smart Planner, and EAB.
 - Committee to coordinate and implement project

Who (person, unit, etc.) will be responsible for implementing, tracking, and evaluating this project?

- Position needs to be hired and be a professional staff person to handle the administrative portion.
- Collaboration with Enrollment Management areas (Registrar Office, Advising, Student Systems, Admissions) and Academic Programs.
- Areas needed to implement
 - Enrollment Management areas
 - Academic Advising
 - Records
 - Student Systems
 - Admissions
 - Academic Programs (representatives from Math/Quantitative Reasoning/English Composition/and other courses developed for block scheduling)
 - Schedule of Classes
 - Catalog

What groups and/or individuals provided input during the development of this proposal?

Division of Student Affairs; Division of Business and Financial Affairs; University Advancement; Office of the President; Academic Senate; students (Student Government, in UNIV with Living Communities or linked courses, in UNIV courses in general); Administrative Efficiencies Committee; Student Academic Success & Equity Initiatives; Writing & Multi-literacy Center; Enrollment Management (Academic Advising, Registrar's Office, Student Systems, Admissions); Composition Director and Faculty; English Chair; and those participating in the World Café.

Upon conclusion of the presentations, attendees (as well as those not able to attend presentations) were encouraged to complete an online survey to gauge support, attain feedback and gather additional ideas and suggestion for improvement.

If successful, how could or should this project be scaled up?

- Add peer mentors to support the courses
- Implement block scheduling for other classes/majors