

Math PLUS (Practice, Learn, Understand, Succeed)

Austin Community College District
Quality Enhancement Plan

Executive Summary

Austin Community College's Quality Enhancement Plan, **Math PLUS (Practice, Learn, Understand, Succeed)**, focuses on improving student success in developmental mathematics, and specifically, ACC's beginning level developmental mathematics course. **Math PLUS** offers a unique opportunity for the college to integrate the QEP with past successes and current work on increasing success for all ACC students.

To select its QEP topic, ACC gathered input from the college and local community and thoughtfully evaluated suggestions within the context of current college initiatives and student success data, project scalability, available college resources, and the potential impact on student learning. Developmental mathematics emerged as the leading opportunity to broadly impact student learning.

By focusing on developmental math, ACC addresses a critical need impacting a large number of students. On average, 45 percent of first time in college ACC students place in the beginning level developmental math course, Basic Math Skills. Narrowing the plan to focus on this beginning level course supports ACC's mission and complements ongoing initiatives involving student progression from developmental to credit courses.

Beyond its central goal of improving student success in developmental mathematics, **Math PLUS** has five specific student learning outcomes: 1) students will perform operations on rational numbers; 2) students will simplify algebraic expressions; 3) students will solve linear equations in one variable; 4) students will solve problems involving perimeter and area; and 5) students will solve problems using ratios, proportions, and percents.

ACC will pursue these student learning outcomes through two primary strategies:

- Redesign Basic Math Skills to include: 1) collaborative learning activities; 2) math study skills; and 3) computer-assisted instruction.
- Provide faculty and staff across the college with professional development, including a QEP Speakers Series, to promote collaborative learning and other research-endorsed teaching strategies.

Math PLUS's distinct components will promote student achievement and foster the self-efficacy students need to succeed in college-level mathematics. Also, the QEP will impact student learning, retention, and preparation for study in many disciplines and will impact faculty and staff across the college.

ACC has dedicated the necessary fiscal, physical, and personnel resources to ensure the QEP's full implementation. Formative and summative assessment methods will be used to measure student learning outcomes and the overall success of Math PLUS. This will ensure the program fulfills its potential to positively impact student success during the QEP's five-year timeframe and beyond.

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