2015

OVERALL EXEMPLAR

Victoria College

Victoria, TX www.victoriacollege.edu

PRINCIPLE

All students, regardless of college readiness, enter directly into mathematics pathways aligned to their program of study.

Defining Mathematics Pathways

- Victoria College's goal is to accurately identify necessary coursework for the most common transfer institutions and programs of study, eliminating the possibility of students completing unnecessary courses.
- Mathematics courses, especially Foundations of Mathematical Reasoning and Intermediate Algebra, are continually evolving to ensure math content is aligned to specific programs of study.



Student Advising

• The advising department identified the most common transfer institutions and programs to identify transfer pathways for all current and prospective students.

Student Enrollment in Mathematics Pathways

- Academic Foundations Division faculty worked with the advising department to build a placement chart that accurately placed students in the appropriate math pathway based on their TSI score and major.
- All first-time-in-college students are advised to begin their math pathway with Learning Frameworks in the first semester.
- Acceleration through foundational courses is a major initiative for Victoria College. With the implementation of the New Mathways Project curriculum, Non-STEM foundational students take one course and STEM foundational students take at most two courses prior to gateway math.
- Victoria College also offers eight-week courses and emporium courses.





Students Who Pass First College-Level Math Course





Students complete their first collegelevel mathematics requirement in their first year of college.





Strategies to support students as learners are integrated into courses and are aligned across the institution.

Opportunities for Student Success Instruction

- All incoming freshmen with fewer than 13 hours enroll in Learning Frameworks.
- Learning Frameworks covers research and theory of psychology of learning, cognition, and motivation; factors that impact learning; and the application of learning strategies.
- Students identify their strengths and weaknesses as strategic learners.

Learning Outcomes



Measuring Impact

- Students complete a five-part portfolio project, take various quizzes and exams, and/or
 participate in activities and discussions that focus on the application of empirical and
 scientific methods.
- Activities explore the behavior and interactions among individuals, groups, institutions, and events to examine the impact on society and culture.
- Academic Foundations maintains high standards for mastery of learning outcomes. Instruction is face-to-face and online hybrid to enhance student performance and success.
- Curriculum-specific professional development is conducted over the summer.

Opportunities for Professional Development

- Professional learning opportunities are facilitated through the Center for Academic and Professional Excellence (CAPE), the college's teaching and learning center.
- Faculty may earn three levels of certification and stipends by participating in Operation: SEAL the DEAL professional learning boot camps.
- As faculty and staff become more engaged, boot camp content is tailored to the challenges shared by faculty and staff.

Student engagement and motivation	Active learning and learning styles
Operation: SEAL the DEAL	
Critical thinking and communication	Learner-centered environments

• In addition, the Academic Foundations Division hosts a summer academy for all foundational faculty to discuss best practices for foundational students, approaches to student engagement, and changes to the emporium lab.



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Instruction incorporates evidence-based curriculum and pedagogy.