

Supplemental Instruction for Gaining Mastery of Algebra (SIGMA)

- Members of the Math Supplemental Instruction FIG (Faculty Inquiry Group) have been meeting this summer to plan for this program.
- Funding has already been allocated for Supplemental Instruction for 2009-2010.
- Since this is a new program here at COC, we have decided to concentrate our efforts on one course (Math 060) for the F09 semester.
- We have scheduled workshops in the Math Achievement Center (MAC) located in BONH-207. They will be run by math faculty members or specially trained TLC tutors and aimed at improving student success rates in 060 (although any students in other courses are welcome to participate). The workshops will include topics such as word problems, graphing, factoring, exponents, fractions and rational expressions. There will be guided learning activities for those students who are unable to attend the workshops at the scheduled time.
- We hope to have five Math 060 sections taught by part-time faculty participating in this pilot program. Many of the full-time faculty are already teaching special sections of Math 060 (PAL, applied, hybrid, computer assisted.)
- The instructors of these pilot sections will be asked to make participation in these workshops an integral part of the course (for example by requiring students who fail a class exam to attend a workshop to improve the grade or to have the worksheets/quizzes completed at these workshops count as 5-10% of the student's grade).
- Any instructor may advertise these workshops to their students. Attendance at the workshops is not restricted to students in the pilot sections.
- The workshops will encourage mastery learning and provide more structure for students having difficulty than provided by the present resources (such as TLC tutoring or instructor's office hours).
- We are making some changes to BONH-207 including moving the computers to the side walls, adding another white board and removing the unnecessary file cabinets. This room will be shared with the mCAL program.
- This program will be similar to successful programs at other community colleges and should eventually expand to cover all of our classes from 025 through 070.