

Math Preparation Workshop Survey – Spring 2013

Catherine Parker, M.A., Daylene M. Meuschke, Ed.D., and Barry C. Gibbons, Ph.D.

At the request of the Math Learning Consortium, the Office of Institutional Development and Technology surveyed students who participated in a two-day pilot Math Preparation Workshop at Hart High School. This workshop was designed to help graduating seniors from the Wm. S. Hart Union High School District prepare for the math placement test and math courses at College of the Canyons.

Surveys were distributed to 11 students at the end of the last day of the workshop. All surveys were completed and turned in. Results of this survey will be used to inform planning for future Math Preparation Workshops. Since the number of respondents is low and not likely representative of students preparing for math at College of the Canyons, results should be interpreted with caution. Please contact the Office of Institutional Development for a copy of the survey instrument and detailed results.

Upon review of the results, the following observations were made:

- ***Evaluation of Workshop:*** The majority of respondents rated the Math Workshop positively. More specifically, all respondents “agreed” or “strongly agreed” that the workshop was helpful (100 percent), while 91 percent indicated that they “agreed” or “strongly agreed” that the handouts given during the workshop were helpful and that they would use them in the future. In addition, 91 percent indicated that the time allowed for each meeting was sufficient.
- ***Most Useful or Valuable Aspects of the Workshop:*** Respondents indicated the following as most useful or valuable aspects of the workshop: refreshed memory (5 respondents); fractions and exponents (2 respondents, each); rational expressions, examples given, practice, and support (1 respondent, each).
- ***Topics Which Require More Time:*** Respondents indicated that they would like to spend more time on the following topics: graphs (5 respondents); word problems (2 respondents); trigonometry, exponents, and fractions (1 respondent, each). Two respondents indicated NA/nothing.
- ***Additional Topics Recommended:*** Respondents recommended the following topics for future Math Preparation Workshops: geometry, decimals, material on placement test, and more time to prepare (1 respondent, each). Four respondents indicated NA/nothing.
- ***Least Helpful Topics:*** Four respondents indicated that everything was helpful, while three indicated none/nothing was unhelpful, and one indicated exponents as unhelpful.

- **Additional Comments:** Respondents provided additional comments that were grouped into the following categories: value of workshop and high quality of instruction (3 respondents, each); more time, convenient hours, and past experience with placement test (1 respondent, each). Two respondents indicated NA/none. Sample comments by category were as follows:
 - *Value of workshop*
 - “this was really helpful because most of this stuff I almost forgot.”
 - “Thank you I feel prepared for the test!”
 - *High quality of instruction*
 - “...You guys are very nice hope to have one of you guys as a teacher.”
 - “Great teaching....”
 - *More time*
 - “I wish it was at least a 3 day course.”
 - *Convenient Hours*
 - “...liked that it was early in morning so I could get it over with.”

Recommendations:

Upon review of the results, the following recommendation should be taken into consideration:

- Continue Math Preparation Workshops, while considering minor changes, including spending more time on graphs.
- Consider ways to increase participation in Math Preparation Workshops.

For more detailed information on this research brief or for a copy of the survey, stop by the Institutional Development and Technology office located in BONH-224, or call Daylene Meuschke, Director of Institutional Research at 661.362.5329.