Two-in-One – The Compressed Semester Option
Andrew Pak & Sharon Rowe

Introduction
Historically, Math and Logical Reasoning courses have low success rates. Together with other faculty teaching “gateway” courses, we hope to achieve higher success rates for students, and engender a sense of achievement that will help them complete their college education.

Background/Context
1) The KCC academic schedule is based on two 16-week semesters. We constructed two 8-week sessions within that structure.
2) The major constraint is tradition. The success of this project requires faculty, administrators & students willing to resist the pull of inertia and risk trying something different.
3) A Dean willing to take a chance.

Participants:
Faculty teaching Math, Religion, Philosophy, English, Spanish, Hawaiian, Speech classes

Procedure:
1) Work within institutional structures to carve out an 8-week option for students
2) Recruit faculty from a variety of disciplines sufficient to offer students a compressed schedule option that will work for them
3) Rework syllabi, assignments and assessment measures to accommodate a compressed course schedule
4) Implement Fall 2011

Targeted student population:
Students who will benefit from more intensive contact with instructors, & the repetition that can come from a compressed schedule:
- Students with differentiated learning needs
- Foreign students
- Students managing jobs and family obligations
- Students motivated to focus & finish

Results & Discussion
- This project radically restructures and expands educational options for students.
- Will student success rates improve over Fall 2008?
- Will we see improved attendance, learning, student competency & confidence?

Research Questions
CAN WE
Engage students and create a more dynamic, meaningful and differentiated learning environment by meeting more frequently for a shorter period of time AND achieve higher success rates (passing grade of “C” or better) with a more intensive learning experience that responds to a wider range of student needs?

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