

PRACTICES EXCHANGE

NEWSLETTER

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<https://www.yeswemustcoalition.org>

Issue 13

Institutional Resources/Practices

Developmental Education

Developmental coursework is a precarious subject for those of us in higher education as we wonder how to best serve those under-prepared students in our campus communities without inundating them with classes that carry no credit beyond the institution. Trying to resolve this issue, the English Department of Martin Methodist College (TN) has recently reduced their developmental English course sequence from three institutional-credit-only classes to one, Developmental Writing. This revamped course includes a one-hour co-requisite lab component and is required of students with an English score of 14 or lower on the ACT. Students who pass this course with at least a C- progress directly into college-level Composition I. In addition, the College has developed a second course, Composition I Enhanced, for incoming students with 15–18 ACT scores. This credit bearing course is also paired with a one-hour co-requisite lab course. These changes enable students with lower ACT or SAT scores to become college-level ready faster and more efficiently.

In both instances, the co-requisite lab course is paired with the syllabus of the primary course, giving students support for grammatical and mechanical issues they may face in their writing. Moreover, these co-requisite courses allow students to draft their essays in an environment where the professor / lab instructor can be directly engaged with students at each stage of the writing process and offer feedback in real time. Most importantly, these courses and their co-requisite counterparts permit students to enter traditional college-level courses in one semester's time rather than the extended two to three class sequence from before, which could take two to three semesters as well. Evidence of the success of these revisions is already unmistakable at Martin, as many professors report that they have seen noticeable improvement in students who are matriculating into college-level courses from these enhanced ones and as the students themselves seem to be overall more successful than those who took the previous developmental sequence. For more information regarding these courses, please email Dr. Kayla Wiggins at kwiggins@martinmethodist.edu.

Adult Degree Completion

In January 2013, Huston-Tillotson University (TX), Austin's only HBCU and its first institution of higher education, launched a campus-based undergraduate degree completion program geared toward full-time working adults. The Adult Degree Program is specifically designed for the busy lifestyles of adult learners who often have career and family obligations competing for their time. Students take one course at a time, one evening a week, with their course schedules tailored by a personalized degree completion plan developed to fit their particular situation. The University has also incorporated flexible elective credit transfer guidelines into most majors to accommodate the extensive and varied courses completed at previous institutions.

With this population of students in particular, milestones are encouraging and relate to continuing persistence; for this reason the program also allows students to earn an Associate's Degree on the way to completing a Bachelor's Degree. Beginning with its first graduating class in May 2015, the program has graduated approximately 300 adult learners. For further information contact: Shakitha Stinson, Director of Student Services. slstinson@htu.edu.

Yes We Must Coalition National Conference October 24–26, 2018, Austin, Texas

Early Bird Rates Still Available! For Yes We Must members, if you come with at least two colleagues from the same member institution and register before July 30, the registration fee per person is \$295. This includes a dinner, two breakfasts, two lunches and two receptions and, of course, the stimulation of a wonderful conference focused on the mission we share. To register and for more information, go to: <https://yeswemustcoalition.org/meetings>.

Submissions for Future Issues

YWM members are encouraged to submit examples of practices and/or resources that you have found to be effective in promoting student success and that you would like to share with your YWM colleagues. Send brief descriptions and any accompanying materials to Nia Chester, YWM Program Manager. niachester@gmail.com.