
Action Project

Institution: Delta College

Submitted: 2008-09-11

Timeline:

Planned project kickoff date: 2008-09-01

Target completion date: 2009-06-01

Actual completion date:

A. Give this Action Project a short title in 10 words or fewer:

Assessing Our Developmental Education Program

B. Describe this Action Project's goal in 100 words or fewer:

Delta's Developmental Program was coordinated in our AQIP Action plan in 2007/2008. Delta's newly coordinated Developmental Education Team (DECOOR) has determined that the next important step is to assess our developmental program, which offers classes in English, Math, ABS and CST. To assess most effectively, the DECOOR Team will attend a September 2008 national conference, NCDE, to receive assessment training from NADE. Once trained, the team will focus first on developmental English, to assess the course sequence of classes and determine if they are in alignment and are successful in terms of student success, course persistence, and in preparing students for the next level of education.

C. Identify the single AQIP Category which the Action Project will most affect or impact:

Primary Category: Helping Students Learn

D. Describe briefly your institution's reasons for taking on this Action Project now -- why the project and its goals are high among your current priorities:

Delta College is serving increasing numbers of developmental students, with approximately 50% of new students needing remediation in reading and writing and 80% in math. There has been about a 3% annual increase in developmental student enrollment in recent years. Thus, it is important that Delta assess its Developmental Program, never systematically assessed before, to ensure we are effectively meeting the needs of this growing student population.

E. List the organizational areas - -institutional departments, programs, divisions, or units -- most affected by or involved in this Action Project:

Academic Areas: Counseling/Advising and Career Services, Disability Services

Administrative Area: Institutional Research and Instructional Design

F. Name and describe briefly the key organizational process(es) that you expect this Action Project to change or improve:

Program design, to determine if we are offering the right developmental classes and sequences.

Assessment, to effectively evaluate student success and course persistence.

Course Preparation, to determine if course outcomes and objectives reflect what we expect our students to accomplish.

Faculty development, to help developmental faculty assist students in progressing from under-prepared to college ready.

G. Explain the rationale for the length of time planned for this Action Project (from kickoff to target completion):

The first 12 months will involve examining course syllabi or developmental English classes, studying course outcomes and objectives for each course in the developmental English sequence, and collecting/analyzing data on student success and course persistence in each developmental English class. We will evaluate/adjust our assessment plan every three months, and review the entire plan at the end of the year, making adjustments and new recommendations accordingly. Upon successful completion of this Action Plan, the process will be repeated for Math, ABS and CST classes.

H. Describe how you plan to monitor how successfully your efforts on this Action Project are progressing:

We will keep our organization focused on the Action Plan by having 1) Developmental Ed (DECOOR) Team members report to their individual Departments/Divisions on a monthly basis and 2) the Directors of the Developmental Ed and Bridge Programs report monthly to the Dean of Teaching and Learning and to the Delta Assessment Director/Team. In addition, as we assess the developmental English classes, we will share our results with the Developmental Ed Study Group (DESG), which meets monthly. We will also make use of the Delta listserv and the developmental education website, "Resources for Developmental Educators (RDE)".

I. Describe the overall "outcome" measures or indicators that will tell you whether this Action Project has been a success or failure in achieving its goals:

Assessment of the developmental English course sequence will determine if 1) courses are in alignment, 2) if exit criteria for courses are consistent, 3) if classes are successful in terms of student success and course persistence, and 4) if they are preparing students for the next level of education.

J. Other information (e.g., publicity, sponsor or champion, etc.):

All Delta Developmental Ed (DECOOR) Team members will attend a NCDE (National Center

for Developmental Education) research conference in September 2008, where they will receive training to effectively assess their developmental education program.

Last Action Project Update:

A. Describe the past year's accomplishments and the current status of this Action Project.

B. Describe how the institution involved people in work on this Action Project.

C. Describe your planned next steps for this Action Project.

D. Describe any "effective practice(s)" that resulted from your work on this Action Project.

E. What challenges, if any, are you still facing in regards to this Action Project?

F. If you would like to discuss the possibility of AQIP providing you help to stimulate progress on this action project, explain your need(s) here and tell us who to contact and when?
