

Goal 1: Excellence in Teaching and Learning

D. Improve retention in the student pipeline; increase graduation rates

Summer Courses

Encourage/require students at risk to take “remedial” or “preparatory” summer courses, especially prior to enrollment at IUPUI. Should help with retention, and free up class capacity during the academic year. Should emphasize benefits of reducing time to graduation.

Committee: Andrea Bryan, Carl Cowen, Roger Schmenner, and Gayle Williams [chair].

Current Status

- The Department of Mathematical Sciences offers an excellent course for students who need remediation in math before beginning their regular math curriculum. MATH 001 is the only remaining remedial course at IUPUI; the remedial English and reading courses offered previously have been discontinued.
- Placement in remedial courses is based on the IUPUI placement tests, but many students do not take these tests until summer. For summer remedial courses to be effective, students will need to take placement tests during the spring semester.
- Entering first-year students are unable to use financial aid for summer courses prior to their first year unless they complete a FAFSA form during their junior year of high school.

Recommendations

- Before acting to require remediation to be completed the summer prior to matriculation, consider the potential disproportionate impact on under-represented student groups. Among conditional admits, the group most likely to require remediation, 16% are African American.
- Restrict the offering to control groups, such as IPS graduates.
- Work with high school counselors to identify students who may need remediation.
- Offer the summer courses at no cost to participants.
- Offer a break in tuition for fall semester to students who successfully complete remedial summer courses.
- Ask IMIR to do a thorough study on the impact of summer enrollment.
- Make math placement testing available in local high schools so that students who need remediation can be identified early.

Implementation

The action team did not complete its work because a campus committee was formed to develop a remedial summer plan.

(Revised October 26, 2007)