

Coyote First STEP: A Comprehensive Approach to First Year Student Academic and Co-Curricular Success



California State University, San Bernardino

Rationale

The need for developmental math at the college level is a significant problem, with more than 50% of incoming first year students requiring math remediation. Coyote First STEP (CFS) is a comprehensive program of academic and co-curricular experiences designed to reduce the need for remediation at enrollment and provide psychosocial support structures for success.



Program Details

CFS includes an Early Start math class with peer tutor support, a residential experience, and a myriad of co-curricular activities and workshops.

GOALS:

- Reduce developmental course requirements
- Enhance social connections among students
- Forge students' sense of belonging at CSUSB

CAMPUSWIDE, CROSS-DIVISIONAL COLLABORATION:

More than 400 faculty, staff, administrators, and students work together throughout the year to develop, plan for, and implement CFS each summer.

Representative departments and programs include:

- Undergraduate Studies
- Department of Mathematics
- Housing and Residential Education
- Admissions and Student Recruitment
- Educational Opportunity Program
- College of Extended Learning
- Campus Assessment, Response and Education (CARE) Team
- Santos Manuel Student Union
- Student Services
- Academic Advising
- Student Engagement
- Registrar
- Institutional Research
- Equity & Enrollment Management

TOTAL COST: ~\$2.2 million (50% CSU Chancellor's Office, 40% campus discretionary funds, 9% area school districts, and 1% miscellaneous fees)

The Student Experience

Free three- to four-week residential (Monday through Thursday) program

Sample Daily Schedule

6:30 – 7:50 AM Breakfast 8:00 – 11:50 AM Class 12:00 – 1:30 PM Lunch

1:30 – 3:30 PM Supplemental Instruction/Tutoring 4:00 – 6:00 PM Co-Curricular Programs and Activities

6:00 – 7:30 PM Dinner

7:30 – 10:00 PM Late-Night Activities/Free Time

Sample Co-Curricular Programs and Activities

College Finances
Choosing a Major
Health and Wellness
CSUSB Has What?!
Time Management
Coyotes Got Talent

"Coyote First STEP was amazing! Thanks to it, I feel more prepared for the rigors of college."

"I feel that Coyote First STEP was very beneficial for me because I was able to review and gain more knowledge about math and had the amazing opportunity to meet new people."

"I do think CFS was beneficial to me. It helped me get introduced to college life and start my freshmen year at the college course level."

"I would totally recommend this program to future Coyotes. It helps you grow as a college student and interact with your professors before you actually start your 1st quarter."



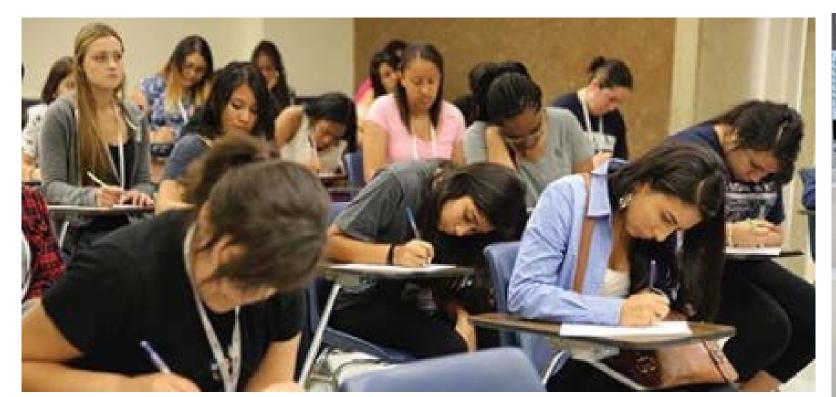
Keywords:
developmental math program
anti-deficit model
psychosocial support structure









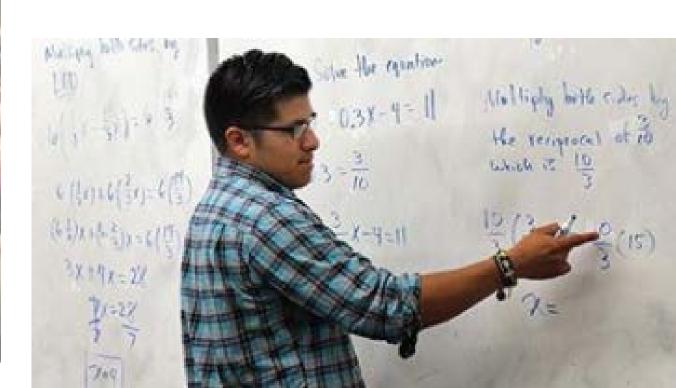












Results*

- 91% of CFS participants reduced their developmental math requirements by at least one level
 - 59% were made fully general education (GE) math-ready
- Students' sense of connectedness to their peers increased over the course of the program (t(465) = -2.43, p = .015).
- Participants improved their confidence in mathematics abilities (t(470) = 11.95, p < .001, d = .54, r = .26) and ability to handle difficult obstacles pertaining to math (t(468) = 5.612, p < .001, d = .29, r = .15).
- Open-ended survey responses indicate that participants found the program beneficial to them in terms of engagement and college-life experience, improved skills in math, connectedness to their peers and faculty, campus familiarity, and other positive experiences.

* Data from CFS 2016

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