

Developmental Studies Program

Marva Lucas, Interim Chair
Peck Hall 202

Alley, Azarbarzin, Badley, Belton, Clark, Conway, Dawson, Dooley, Fisher, Flanigan, Harrison, Henslee, Higgs, Hopper, Hunt, McCormick, McDaniel, Otto, Otts, Raines, Ross, Rouse, Sundeen, Tyner, Williams

The Developmental Studies Program is designed to serve the needs of students who are underprepared to enter the regular college curriculum. The purpose of the program is to assist students in achieving a level of academic competence that will enable them to work successfully in college-level courses.

Academic Assessment Placement Testing

All entering degree-seeking students less than 21 years of age will be assessed for Developmental Studies Program (DSP) placement initially according to valid ACT/SAT scores. Permissible scores are less than three years old. Students with ACT subscores that are 18 or lower in the areas of reading, English, or math are automatically placed in the program in the appropriate area. Students with mathematics or verbal SAT scores of 450 or less are placed in the appropriate areas, and students with SAT composite scores of 890 or below are placed into the reading area.

Applicants who will be 21 years of age or older at the time of admission are required to undergo assessment for each area or may elect to provide ACT/SAT scores that have been taken within three years prior to the first day of the first term of enrollment. Additionally, transfer students who have not earned college-level, algebra-based math or English credits must undergo departmental assessment in appropriate areas.

Students admitted as Adult Special who have not completed the first college-level course in English or algebra-based mathematics must undergo assessment in the appropriate subject area and must complete courses indicated by test placement prior to enrolling in the respective college-level English or mathematics course. Students may not enroll in any college-level course that has prerequisites of developmental math and/or writing.

Students who, on the basis of the ACT score(s), are not required by the institution to undergo assessment but who later show deficiency in English, mathematics, or reading must undergo assessment and placement. Such students shall not be allowed to continue in a college-level course requiring subject area competencies as prerequisites and must instead enroll in the appropriate Developmental Studies course.

Students who consider themselves inadequately prepared to pursue a college-level course may request assessment to determine whether they need DSP English, mathematics, or reading courses. They must complete the appropriate subject area pretest and must be determined to need remediation before placement. The decision to permit the student to enroll in any DSP course is an institutional prerogative with placement decision made by the program director.

Students admitted with high school deficiencies in algebra or English may remove these deficiencies by (1) scoring at college course placement levels and thereby demonstrating competency or (2) completing DSP requirements.

The assessment exam is administered on multiple dates throughout the year. On the basis of their test scores, students are placed in basic, developmental, or college-level courses.

Learning Strategies course placement is required for students who are placed in two subject areas. Beyond this mandatory placement, students with at least one developmental studies course have the option to elect placement in Learning Strategies. Course enrollment is limited to students in these categories.

Grades

In order to pass basic and developmental courses, students must earn a grade of **C** or better. The grade of **D** is not assigned. Basic and developmental courses carry institutional credit which does not count toward the hours required for an undergraduate degree. Developmental course grades are not used in the computation of the 2.00 GPA required for a bachelor's degree nor for the required GPA for admission to teacher education. Developmental course grades are used to compute a student's overall grade point average.

Enrollment

Students admitted into the Developmental Studies Program must be continuously enrolled in the correct course(s) until they complete the program. Those failing developmental studies courses must retake the courses in the next semester they enroll. They may not drop a developmental course without approval of the chair of the Developmental Studies Department. Students are expected to attend all class sessions. More than two absences in a two-day-a-week class or three absences in a three-day-a-week or four-day-a-week class ordinarily will result in failure.

Students placed in four basic and/or developmental classes per semester may take only one other course—either an ROTC or PHED activity course. They may not take any college-level course which requires skill in any area in which they show a deficiency as determined by the placement test. Students are urged to consult with one of the Academic Support Center advisors for details.

Support Services

A number of support services provide tutoring to assist students in achieving the objectives of their courses. These are (1) the Developmental Writing Lab, (2) the Developmental Reading Lab, and (3) the Developmental Mathematics Lab. The tutoring provided in the labs reinforces the curriculum and the objectives of the basic and developmental courses.

Each student in Developmental Studies is assigned an advisor who assists with scheduling developmental classes and academic advising. Students should check with the Academic Support Center in 324 KUC (615-898-2339) immediately upon arrival on campus to determine the name and office number of the assigned advisor. Students should make appointments to meet with their advisors prior to registration. Students should see their advisors at least twice during the semester. Students on probation must see their advisors at least four times a semester or once a month.

Program: Basic and Developmental

The Developmental Studies Program offers courses in both basic and/or developmental studies in four areas: writing skills, reading skills, mathematics skills, and learning strategies. Course offerings in basic and developmental studies are listed each semester in the class schedule book and carry the designations **DSPW**, **DSPM**, **DSPR**, or **DSPS**. In addition to the usual daytime offerings, basic and developmental courses are offered at night and during the summer.

More detailed specifications for the Developmental Studies Program may be found in the Tennessee Board of Regents Guideline No. A-100.

Courses in Basic Studies*

DSPW 0700 Basic Writing. Three credits. Prerequisite: Placement pretesting. Intensive practice in paragraph and sentence construction; intensive review of basics of spelling, grammar, and punctuation. Skills refined through individualized laboratory work.

DSPM 0700 Basic Mathematics. Three credits. Prerequisite: Placement pretesting. Intensive study of all mathematical operations with whole numbers, decimals and fractions, percent and equivalency, units of measure, word problems, geometry, graphs, elementary probability, and statistics.

DSPR 0700 Basic Reading. Three credits. Prerequisite: Placement pretesting. Intensive practice in identifying main ideas, sequencing, locating facts, using contextual clues, drawing conclusions, and making inferences.

**NOTE: All DSP 0700 courses are taught by Motlow State Community College faculty on the MTSU campus.*

Courses in Developmental Studies

DSPW 0800 Developmental Writing. Three credits. Prerequisite: Placement pretesting. Intensive practice in writing brief essays for a variety of rhetorical purposes and audiences. Emphasis on strategies for prewriting, writing, and rewriting. Also intensive review of sentence and paragraph constructions and basic language arts.

DSPM 0800 Elementary Algebra. Three credits. Prerequisite: Placement pretesting. Intensive study of real numbers, algebraic expressions, linear equations and inequalities, graphing and linear functions, and operations with polynomials.

DSPM 0850 Intermediate Algebra. Three credits. Prerequisite: Placement pretesting. Intensive study of factoring of polynomials, rational equations and functions, systems of equations with applications, radical functions, and quadratic functions and equations.

DSPR 0800 Developmental Reading. Three credits. Prerequisite: Placement pretesting. Intensive practice in developing reading skills and techniques for improving vocabulary and comprehension. Critical thinking, methods of understanding and retaining textbook material, and development of reading fluency emphasized.

DSPS 0800 Learning Strategies. Three credits. Intensive study of brain-based learning. Particular attention given to time management, goal setting, critical thinking, note taking, test taking, and use of college resources. Overall goal is to give students the tools they need to be independent learners.

MATH 0990 Basic Geometry. Three credits. Plane and solid geometry including measurement formulas, properties of plane figures, proof techniques, symmetry, congruency, and construction. Open only to those lacking required high school geometry course for unconditional admission to University.

Courses in Academic Success Program [ACA]

ACA 3000 Theory and Practice of College Peer Tutoring. One credit. Prerequisite: Consent of department. Provides training in the knowledge and fundamental skills useful to tutors in various academic disciplines. Pass/Fail.