Helping students prepare with dual enrollment

Louisiana State University
The challenge

When initiating their College Readiness Program for math in 2010, Louisiana State University (LSU) searched for a timely, cost efficient way to address the lack of preparedness for college level math courses that was becoming a barrier to student success. The Louisiana State University College Readiness Dual Enrollment Program for math also wanted to address any potential pitfalls (including unqualified instructors and decreased rigor) head-on to ensure that their students succeed beyond the dual enrollment course or bridge program through to a degree.

What began as partnerships with 3 local high schools and an enrollment of 31 students has, by the Spring 2021 term, expanded to include 70 high schools and over 2,000 students each year.

A dual enrollment program with lasting results

Traditionally, dual enrollment courses were used to offer advanced high school students more challenging coursework, while simultaneously earning them early college credits. Today, the same strategy is used at LSU to prepare students for both dual enrollment courses and later success in college courses.

The LSU College Readiness Program offers a dual enrollment option in which high school students earn credit for both an LSU course and a high school course at the same time, while remaining on their high school campuses. In addition, the program offers MyLab® Math (formerly MyMathLab) courses in Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II to teachers at participating dual enrollment schools.

Since 2004, institutions have successfully used MyLab Math to help address the pervasive lack of college readiness, its high cost to schools and students, and its resulting low graduation rates, by giving students the confidence and support they need to better prepare for college-level math courses.

The delivery model in high school requires that students spend a third of the course time in a face-to-face classroom environment and the remaining two thirds in an on-campus computer lab environment with teacher support.
Program-certified teachers form a solid foundation for success

To address one of the biggest criticisms of dual enrollment courses — the potential for varied quality of content — LSU has created a training program that ensures high school teachers are well-prepared to handle the math content, the delivery model, and the MyLab Math program. Teachers become certified to participate in the College Readiness Program by successfully completing a free, comprehensive summer workshop taught by LSU faculty and high school mentor-teachers. Teachers can specialize in any of five dual enrollment courses: College Algebra, Trigonometry, Business Calculus, and two courses covering Calculus I. Since 2006, 355 teachers have completed this dual enrollment certification.

The workshop comprises two four-day summer sessions at the LSU Math Lab and more than 20 additional hours of independent math work to be completed between the two workshop sessions. One-day follow-up workshops for those teachers doing dual enrollment courses are held at LSU at the beginning of each Fall semester thereafter.

Workshop sessions cover the following:

- web-based redesign course delivery pedagogy to improve student learning
- MyLab Math use at an advanced level
- LSU math classes observations and exposure to students in the LSU Math Lab
- certified mentor-teacher guidance and support

Once certified to participate in the College Readiness Program, a high school dual enrollment teacher serves as a classroom facilitator in the high school setting with an LSU faculty member serving as an Instructor of Record. Students use MyLab Math to do the same homework, quizzes, tests, and final exams as do on-campus students enrolled in the same course.

![Graph showing growth in schools and facilitators, Spring 2010, school years 2011–12 through 2019–20 (bi-annual), 20–21](image)

Though data shown is bi-annual, program is run annually in both Fall and Spring semesters.

**CASE STUDY**
The results

Success of the LSU College Readiness Program for math over the past 10 years is not only exemplified by the steady increase of high schools, teachers and students participating in the program, but by consistent student performance in these courses. These dual enrollment students entered college much better prepared for advanced college coursework, helping improve college retention and graduation rates.

Growth in student enrollments & passing grades, Spring 2010, school years 2011–12 through 2019–20 (bi-annual)

Though data shown is bi-annual, program is run annually in both Fall and Spring semesters.