

Math Students Find Success with Hawkes Mastery-Based Software

Hawkes Learning Systems & Greenville Technical College

Mathematics instructors at Greenville Technical College, one of the largest community colleges in South Carolina, watched student success rates stagnate semester after semester. Department leaders knew a change had to be made, but they also knew it would not be an easy task with an enrollment at the college of approximately 14,000 students across four campuses.

With several educational software options on the market, an extensive search was conducted to find the best materials to significantly increase student success rates at Greenville Tech. Along with testing various teaching methods, textbooks and software from three different publishers were evaluated in a one year pilot. One of these software programs was Hawkes Learning Systems.

Previous to the pilot period, a different software program had been used in developmental math at Greenville Tech for 10 years. Success rates were consistently low, hovering around 50%. However, in Fall 2010 Greenville Tech gathered data that showed a 14.3% student success advantage for students taking Algebra (Introductory and Intermediate) using Hawkes Learning Systems with those students succeeding at 71% while students using the previous text (and optional software) only achieved 56.7% success. Data tracking students utilizing Hawkes show that scores for persistence and success in subsequent courses are on the rise. In addition, among sections of Intermediate Algebra taught by full-time faculty, the final exam average score was 14 percentage points higher for students using Hawkes.

Greenville Technical College gained department-wide support for Hawkes Learning Systems courseware upon witnessing the results firsthand. Hawkes' Developmental Mathematics textbook and software were fully adopted across all four of the college's campuses in Developmental Math Basics, Developmental Math, Introductory Algebra, and Intermediate Algebra courses.

Key faculty such as the dean, assistant deans and coordinators led the way through the adoption process by providing support and encouraging positive attitudes. Training sessions ensured the instructors would know how to implement the software in the correct way, while teaching guidelines helped to set a standard of consistency from one course to the next. Communication played a key factor in getting everyone on board during the change.

It may be difficult to place a monetary value on student success, but reaching outcomes like Greenville Tech has seen, while significantly reducing cost at the same time, can be viewed as a 'win' for all involved. Hawkes Developmental Mathematics courseware covers four semesters' worth of material, significantly reducing student costs. A one-time purchase of \$98.00 (net cost) gives Greenville Tech students lifetime access to the software and textbook which is used on campus for all four consecutive courses. This price is among the lowest cost in the market, breaking down to less than \$25.00 (net cost) per course.

Hawkes also provides free training for instructors and students on campus or online with a Training and Support Specialist. In addition, instructors and students receive free technical support 24 hours a day. Hawkes' online Support Center is one of many free resources, along with HawkesTV which offers instructional videos for students.