Subject Matter Expert Review
TAACCCT Grant – Round 1
Findings & Report

Grant Activity: **Getting Prepped: Developing your College Reading, Writing and Math Skills**

Faculty Developer(s)/Instructional Designer(s): Sara Stephens

Subject Matter Expert: Donna Gaudet, Scottsdale Community College

Subject Matter Expert Credentials:
Donna Gaudet is an instructor of mathematics at Scottsdale Community College in Scottsdale, Arizona and is currently the chair of the mathematics department. She received her Ed.D in Instructional Technology and Distance Education from Nova Southeastern University (2006) and her M.S. degree in Applied Mathematics from the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs (1991). Donna has used technology actively in her courses since the mid 1990's and was an active QM Master Reviewer for over 4 years. . Her current interests are: the design and delivery of hybrid and online courses and the creation and implementation of open educational resources. She is a recent recipient of a NISOD Excellence Award (2014) and the Sony Educational Scholarship Faculty Award (2014).

Date of Review: Began review May 26, 2015. Ended Review June 1, 2015

Synopsis of Findings:

This course contains a tremendous number of resources that could help students brush up on topics in reading, writing and mathematics. It is clear that many hours were spent vetting these resources. However, the course would be much improved if there were specific tracks of learning or review for students to follow and specific, measurable learning objectives for each identified type of student need (i.e. general skills improvement, placement preparation, etc...).

Getting Prepped: Developing your Reading, Writing and Math Skills Program Review

1. SITE DESIGN, OVERVIEW AND GOALS	The overall design and purpose of the site is made clear to the *end user*.

Specific Review Standard	Accomplished	Satisfactory	Not satisfactory
1.1 The goals and purpose of the site are clearly stated.			XXXXXXXX
1.2 Navigation of the site is intuitive.	XXXXXXXXXXX		
1.3 The site is easy to access via Blackboard Coursesites.	XXXXXXXXXXX		

Comments: See comments specific to this review objective on attached pages.

2. RESOURCES AND MATERIALS	Instructional materials are sufficiently comprehensive to achieve stated goals.

Specific Review Standard	Accomplished	Satisfactory	Not satisfactory
2.1 The instructional materials contribute to the achievement of the goals of the site.			XXXXXX
2.2 The instructional materials present a variety of perspectives and approaches on the course content.	XXXXXXXXX		
2.3 The instructional materials are appropriately designed for the level of the user.			XXXXXXX
2.4 Materials are organized in chunks so that users can access resources and materials relevant to their needs.			XXXXXXX

Comments:
Comments: See comments specific to this review objective on attached pages.
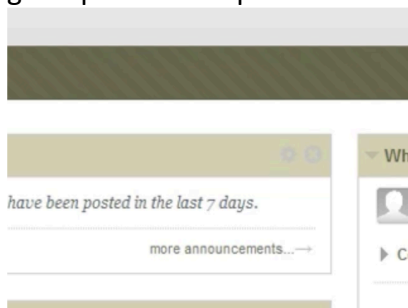
Other Comments:

Comments related to specific review standard 1.1: The goals and purpose of the site are clearly stated. I gave this an unsatisfactory rating. My feedback on this standard:
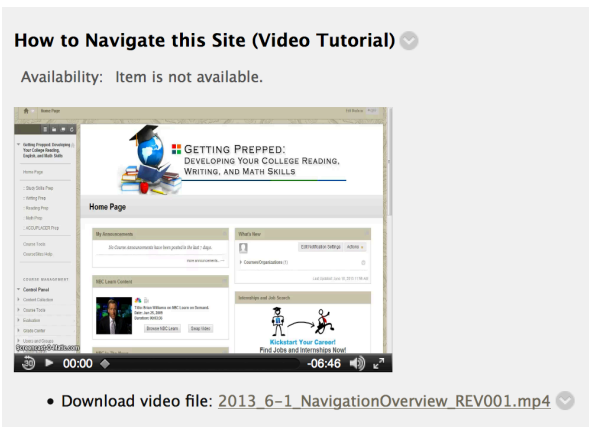
As a student, I would be overwhelmed with all the many resources. I would need a path to follow to reach certain goals…just review…placement test prep…etc… with pre- and post-tests and clearly stated objectives. I would have no way to determine which sections to focus on and whether or not they would help me. As a learner I would not be comfortable self-diagnosing my needs in the available resource areas. The advice given in the initial video was to just "click around and see what is helpful". As a student, I would have no way to determine what would be helpful and what would not be helpful. I recommend narrowing the focus of this site into specific tracks for students that want to "review for placement" or "investigate careers" or other areas you have identified as being a need.

I have the following specific comments on other aspects of the Getting Started page:

- Welcome to Getting Prepped video – there is a typo in the transcript. Sentence "So if you are a strong reader but struggles with the concepts associated with…" should be "So if you are a strong reader but **struggle** with the concepts associated with…"
- Is the "Welcome to Getting Prepped" media file supposed to be a video or just audio? It just came up as audio for me with a static screen (see image below). Would recommend having an image or picture of a person there even if just audio. Image:

- Would also recommend some text in the video (or audio) link area that briefly introduces why the video should be watched. Something like: "watch this video (or listen to this audio segment) to receive a brief overview of the purpose and structure of the Getting Prepped site"
- On the "How to Navigate this Site" video, I see the image below. Not sure what "Availability: Item not Available" means as I was able to access the video through the

How to Navigate this Site (Video Tutorial)

Availability: Item is not available.

- Download video file: 2013_6-1_NavigationOverview_REV001.mp4

mp4 download. Image:

- The "How to Navigate this site" video did a good job of explaining the different parts of the website and the course.
- For the syllabus, I would recommend writing a "path" document that helps students follow a particular path through the materials depending upon their needs. Students need sample paths with recommendations on how to move through the materials.
- How do the NBC and job search links that are on the home page relate to the course objectives? Also, the info there did not show up on my screen…just blank pages. See image below.

Comments related to specific review standard 2.1 The instructional materials contribute to the achievement of the goals of the site. I gave this an unsatisfactory rating. My feedback on this standard:

My background, study, and experience in Instructional Design as well as long-time experience as a QM reviewer lead me to look closely at course and modules objectives. I found three stated objectives for this course as follows:

- Strengthen your reading, writing, and math skills,
- Provide you with opportunities to practice your skills,
- Provide you with a solid foundation – so that you can more successfully adapt to college-level work.

What I am struggling with is that these objectives are focused on what the site will provide not the specifics of what the student will get out of the site/class. I found a great acronym for writing measurable objectives from Elizabeth City State University: http://www.ecsu.edu/fs/docs/writingmeasurableobjectives.pdf

So, rating review standard 2.1 is challenging because I feel the objectives are not written in a specific, measurable way. If you want to know if the site has lots of resources for students wanting to learn about reading, study skills, and math then absolutely…the site hits that mark. If you want to know if those resources help a student reach the identified course objectives, then I feel there are issues with that as I have indicated above.

Comments related to specific review standard 2.3 The instructional materials are appropriately designed for the level of the user. I gave this an unsatisfactory rating. My feedback on this standard:

My understanding is that this course was prepared for students first coming to college to help them prepare for placement and start their math, reading, and writing work at a higher level. If this is a correct understanding, then I believe that some of the materials are at too high a level for this group. Specifically in math, entry level, developmental students would not need to access content related to trigonometry nor would they need to practice or work on problems that are challenging to middle school students (Figure This – NCTM site). Also, in the writing area I found resources that were created for teachers and were to be used in the classroom (Practice In-Class Writing Exercises – UNC link).

Comments related to specific review standard 2.4 Materials are organized in chunks so that users can access resources and materials relevant to their needs. I gave this an unsatisfactory rating. My feedback on this standard:

Materials were organized according to Parts in each area but there was no consistent vertical structure for this organization and there was no clear path through the parts. I could not see that the parts directly helped students to obtain the stated learning objectives although I could see some thread of practice and prep in some of the areas.

I have other comments related to certain specific sections of the areas as follows:
- Math Review – links to Virtual Nerd did not open in the content window…required external window…not clear how to get back to Bb content except to use back button on browser. See image below:

External URL: http://www.virtualnerd.com/middle-math/all/

The target page can not be opened within the content frame due to security reasons. Click the link below to open the page in a new window.

http://www.virtualnerd.com/middle-math/all/

- This link was broken when I tested it – see image below (as was the second link on that page) – these are in Math Prep Part 2 under College Math Placement Tests:

🏠 ... › College Success Online (Sample Tests) › **Linked File**

The content below is outside of the Blackboard Learn environment

External URL: http://www.nvcc.edu/loudoun/scidiv/math/placementtestpreparation.html

The target page can not be opened within the content frame due to security reasons. Click the link below to open the page in a new window.

http://www.nvcc.edu/loudoun/scidiv/math/placementtestpreparation.html

- Reading Review – The files are powerpoints or word documents…question the "ease of use" of this medium. Requires students to open and download a file and page through it (PPt) or to have Word (.docx). Also wonder about using OER in the file names unless students are familiar with it.
- Main Idea practice (under Part 1 Reading Comprehension) has the answers provided immediately …and contains a slide at the end that references class work…this might not make sense to a student not in an official class
- Part Two – Vocabulary Development – Vocabulary – Roots, Prefixes, Suffixes skills practice Games – see image below – first three links required plugins that would not allow the application to load:

Roots, Prefixes, Suffixes Skill Practice Games

These games will help you learn roots, prefixes, and suffixes.

- Prefix Meaning Match Game
- Prefix Meaning Match Concentration Game
- Suffix Matching Game
- Rooting Out Words

- The ACE practice tests (supplemental reading practice tests) required a plugin that prevented the tests from opening. See image below

This content requires Flash Player 7.0.19 or higher.

(If Flash Player 7.0.19 or higher is installed, please check to ensure that your browser's security settings allow Flash content to be displayed.)

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