

UW System Math Initiative

Math Steering Committee meeting

Gateway course definitions and learning outcomes

Wednesday, January 17, 2018

UW System Administration

Madison, WI

Meeting objectives

- Finalize MSC-vetted common definitions and learning outcomes for gateway math courses
 - College algebra
 - Quantitative reasoning
 - Statistics
- Review alignment of Math Initiative with national models
- Present alignment of Math Initiative with overall UWSA strategic plan
- Discuss details of funding to support the UW System Math Initiative
- Develop strategies for vetting common definitions and learning outcomes with institutional math departments

Finalize definitions and learning outcomes

- College algebra
- Quantitative reasoning
- Statistics

Questions for consideration

- Can we live with this?
- Do they match your current learning outcomes?
 - If not, how close are they?
 - Do we need to add or change something?
 - Are we missing critical learning outcomes?
- How do we address barriers to implementation?

External funding awarded - \$2.3 million

- Great Lakes Higher Education Corporation & Affiliates award 3 year grant 2018 – 2020
- Approx. \$9 out of \$10 goes to institutions
- Remaining funding supports technical assistance and institutional research

Math Initiative goals

- Increase enrollment rates in students' first-year math courses
- Reduce number of incoming students needing remedial math
- Increase the completion rate among students who require remedial math coursework
- Increase student success rate in the first credit bearing/gateway math courses
- Increase ease and transparency of the transfer of first credit bearing/gateway math courses

Alignment with national models

No need to reinvent the wheel

- Gateway courses aligned with meta-majors: College Algebra, Statistics, and Quantitative Reasoning
- Quantitative reasoning is the gateway course for liberal arts vs. other courses such as Math Appreciation
- Approach: Learning outcomes written by UW Math Steering Committee with input from math faculty system-wide

Alignment with UW System strategic plan

- Related to 2020FWD Strategic Framework
 - 360 Advising
 - High Impact Practices
 - Seamless Transfer
- Student focused
- Faculty engagement
 - First step: common definitions and learning outcomes for gateway math courses

UW System support

- RFP sent to Provosts and Math Department Chairs to inform them of resources available for next steps
- Provost discussion scheduled at Feb. 7 meeting, including Jenn and Carrie representing Math Steering Committee
- BOR Education Committee update and full board announcement of grant

Details of grant funding – 3 year award

- Contribute to writing project plan (RFP)
- Development of Wisconsin meta-majors and math pathways
 - Gateway courses - quantitative reasoning (QR), statistics, and college algebra (CA)
 - UW faculty are defining the gateway course definitions and learning outcomes (LO)
- Form Institutional Change Teams

What is an Institutional Change Team?

- Executive Sponsor – Provost
- Stakeholders identified at each institution to build consensus on meta-majors and gateway math pathways
 - Arts & Humanities
 - Social & Behavioral Sciences
 - STEM
 - Advising
 - Math department
 - Institutional research

Who belongs on an Institutional Change Team?

- Provost
- Change leader – respected, engaging, access to exec. sponsor, empowered
- Math Steering Committee member
- Data analyst (IR)
- Arts & Humanities faculty rep
- Social & Behavioral Sciences faculty rep
- STEM faculty rep
- Freshman academic advising rep
- Transfer advising rep

What will an Institutional Change Team (ICT) do?

- Attend system-wide ICT meetings May 21 - 22 and late August
- Meet regularly at home institution
- Conduct summer work groups with departmental faculty
 - Based on learning outcomes, sort which gateway math course aligns with which major
 - Discuss steps for implementation
 - Identify other stakeholder groups to engage for implementation

Project Plan (RFP) webinar

- Thursday, February 1 at 1:00 pm
- Due Thursday, March 1
- Notification of funding award Friday, March 9

Working Lunch

Elevator speech varies by stakeholder - focus on Math Dept. Chair and math faculty

- What is the UW System Math Initiative?
- Why are we doing this? How will students benefit?
- What is my role? Why do I support this effort?

Present elevator speech

Strategies to collect feedback

- Elevator speech with FAQ for more detail
- Present common definitions and learning outcomes to math dept.
- Questions to elicit feedback
 - What do they really like?
 - What do they want to see changed?
 - What are the barriers to implementation?
- Tracking tool to collect feedback from home institutions

Possible questions to clarify feedback

- How different are the LO for QR and Liberal Arts math?
- How different are the LO for 3 credit vs. 4 credit statistics?

Celebrate success to date

- Secured \$2.3 million grant from Great Lakes over three years
- MSC agreed on common definitions and LO for UW System gateway math courses – QR, CA, and statistics (Jan. 2018)

Next steps and closing

- Collect feedback on definitions and learning outcomes for gateway courses
- Participate in project plan (RFP) webinar on February 1 at 1:00 pm
- Assist with writing project plan (RFP) and submit by March 1
- Math Steering Committee meeting in Madison on March 16
- Spring 2018 – form Institutional Change Teams (ICT)
- ICT meeting in Madison on **May 21 – 22 now 2 day meeting**
- ICT meeting late August (TBD)