

EL PASO COMMUNITY COLLEGE COLLEGE READINESS INITIATIVE



The College Readiness Initiative was undertaken to address the need to increase the number of high school graduates who meet the Texas Success Initiative standards upon entry into college and who place into college level courses (avoiding the need for remediation). The catalyst for this effort is the El Paso Area College Readiness Consortium, which is comprised of El Paso Community College (EPCC), the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP), the Collaborative for Academic Excellence, the 12 area school districts, and the Region XIX Education Service Center. Representatives from the Consortium meet to set into motion activities that will help achieve the stated goal of the Initiative.

A second tier organization, the College Readiness Implementation Committee, was created to carry out the day to day activities. Research to date has revealed that the primary reason high school students do not place into college level courses upon entrance into higher education has more to do with a lack of understanding of the importance of and reason for the placement test (Accuplacer) and a lack of preparation for the test, than it does a lack of preparation through the high school curriculum. In other words, the high school curriculum, though in some areas lacking in alignment related to the requisite skills needed upon entering college, for the most part does provide the student the skills needed to begin their college career enrolled in those courses that apply directly to a chosen degree or certificate.

The College addresses College Readiness from two perspectives: (1) while the student is still in high school, and (2) when the student arrives on one of our campuses, regardless of how long they have been out of high school, if in fact they even completed high school. Following is a description of both perspectives.

While in high school. As mentioned, the problem with most high school graduates placing into college level courses is their inability to demonstrate on the Accuplacer Placement Test that they are ready for college level rigor. Often times this is inaccurate, in that many students are in fact ready, but fail to fully understand the consequences of not doing well on the Accuplacer and do not adequately prepare for the test. That is where the College Readiness Initiative steps in. Simply stated, and straight forward, the Initiative requires that high school juniors and seniors follow the six step protocol below.

Six Step Protocol

1. Comprehensive orientation for the student

- Why take a placement test?
- What do the scores mean?
- How will the scores be used?
- How can doing well save time and money?
- How can the student prepare to do well on the Accuplacer?
- Complete joint EPCC/UTEP admission application.

2. Test

3. Interpretation of scores

4. Post-test interventions

5. Re-test

6. Summer Bridge Program

