

DRAFT (8/21/2009)

RELIMINARY REPORT "GATEWAY ACADEMIC PROGRAM" © In Algebra and Reading

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By

Dr. Daryao S. Khatri, Professor of Physics
Dr. Anne O. Hughes, Professor of Education/Sociology, ret.
Professor Brenda Brown, Department of Mathematics
Professor Laurence Covington, Department of English
The University of the District of Columbia
Washington, DC 20008

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Gateway Academic Program (GAP) team achieved fantastic results once again for 16 Dunbar High School students. These results, in GAP's fourth year of the Math-Algebra Program, are consistent with those for different student populations and varying DCPS senior high schools. These differing populations are: high school graduates falling below the 10th percentile on the Accuplacer from various schools; a group of low-achieving graduates from Wards 7 & 8; graduates in a special program, DC Achievers; and students from Dunbar High School at varying grade levels (rising 11th and 12th graders and graduates).

Eighteen students were selected from Dunbar High School for the UDC Summer 2009 GAP Program that ran for eight weeks. The criteria for selection were: successful completion of the Algebra II and Trigonometry course and low scores on the *Accuplacer* tests administered on 6/8/09. Two students dropped out of the program because of personal and/or family situations.

All 16 participated in the afternoon (2:30 – 6:00 PM) Reading and English Program now in its second year. However, only 13 could participate in the morning (10:00 – 1:45 PM) Math-Algebra program during the entire eight weeks because of previous commitments.

RESULTS FOR THE MATH-ALGEBRA PROGRAM:

Of the 13 students, who participated during the entire eight weeks of the program, seven of them (54%) tested out of both the remedial math courses, thereby saving themselves one year of math remediation. One student tested out of the Basic Math course (7%), thereby saving herself one semester of remedial math. **Three of the students, who tested out of both remedial courses, scored in the 95-97 percentile range; a remarkable accomplishment by any standard.** Those students, who did not test out of the remedial math courses, showed on the average a 44% improvement in their algebra scores on the *Accuplacer*.

RESULTS FOR THE READING AND ENGLISH PROGRAM:

Of the 16 students, who participated during the entire eight weeks of the program, seven of them (44%) tested out of the remedial reading and English courses, thereby saving themselves one year of reading/English remediation. Those students, who did not test out of the remedial reading and English courses, showed on the average a 13 & 22% improvement respectively, in their reading and English scores on the *Accuplacer*.

IMPLICATIONS

In both programs, the results for this year's group of students are even more striking when we consider that most of them are either rising seniors or juniors, and they still must complete one or two more years of high school before they enter college. Hence, we theorize that under the right conditions, these students probably can complete a number of university-wide requirements in math, science, reading and English before entering college.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION:

Students, who have passed the *Accuplacer*, (1) should be encouraged to take college level courses in math, science, and English at UDC, and (2) be enrolled at Dunbar High School in advanced math and English courses.