

REACH Project – large-scale transformations to enhance student learning in high-enrollment, lecture-based courses – Spring 2017

Primary Objectives

- Transform large, introductory, lecture-based courses into more active and inclusive learning environments that can be sustained by academic departments
- Inspire greater student responsibility for learning
- Improve student learning

Participating Units (2016-17)

• 12 courses, 6 depts., 3 schools/colleges

Impact Summary Across Courses

General

- REACH course structures and practices becoming more consistent, active and inclusive
- Early indications of improved student inquiry, engagement and learning

By Numbers

- 30-40 faculty and staff; 125-150 TAs per semester
- Impacting nearly 9,000 student enrollees per semester (not including summer)

Course Attendance

• Lecture attendance before REACH: 15-50%; after: 80-90%

Course Structure, Materials, Pedagogy

- Progress toward, common, co-created learning objectives, curriculums and assessments, with unified course structures in Canvas.
- Modularized, active-learning curriculums that integrate lecture content, discussions, labs, and pre- and post-class activities, with increased low- and medium-stakes, graded assessments
- Instructors systematically experimenting with interactive teaching and innovative technologies
- Comprehensive, on-going TA REACH-targeted training and development
- Increased student cost savings via open texts

Faculty/Instructor Response

- Indicate increased skill in designing active learning courses
- Report increased collaboration with colleagues about their teaching
- Plan to incorporate active learning in other courses

Example Early Indicators – Math 221 (Calculus 1)

- Small reduction in course drops
- Improved results on midterm and final exams (see next page for graphs)
- Improved grades

Early Indicators of Increased Student Learning in Math 221 (Calculus 1)

Fig. 1. Final exam scores improved from fall 2015 to fall 2016



Fig. 2. Midterm exam 2 scores improved from fall 2015 to fall 2016



Fig. 3. Grades (adjusted) improved from fall 2015 to fall 2016



Math 221 Fall 2016 and Fall 2015 grades

Estimated by G. Moses, 1/11/2017