

Is Moorpark College Ready for the Influx of Students Educated by the Mathematics Common Core Curriculum?

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Sabbatical Proposal - One Semester Leave: Spring 2017

Purpose: To prepare Moorpark College mathematics faculty members for the influx of graduating high school students who have learned math using Common Core curriculum.

Introduction

Common Core mathematics curriculum was introduced nationwide (to 42 states) within the last 2-3 years. The new curriculum was created in an effort to more closely align the curriculum taught at K-12 schools across the country. California adopted the Common Core curriculum in Fall 2014, beginning with Kindergarten through 7th grade. By Fall 2018, the Common Core curriculum will be taught through the 12th grade. This means Moorpark College must be prepared for the first major crop of students educated by Common Core curriculum, starting in the Fall 2019 semester.

K-12 students will now be learning *non-traditional* methods for basic mathematics. Many of the Moorpark College professors (including myself) are not aware of these new methods and may not be able to assist incoming students when they come to college having a foundation in Common Core.

Recent headlines have not been favorable about the outcomes of students learning math through Common Core techniques:

Nationwide Test Shows Dip in Students' Math Abilities

“For the first time since 1990, the mathematical skills of American students have dropped, according to results of a nationwide test released by the Education Department on Wednesday - New York Times, October 28, 2015

Report: Higher Ed Not Ready for Common Core

“A new report from the New America Foundation suggested that colleges and universities are not taking the appropriate measures necessary to align themselves with the Common Core standards, according to the education news outlet, the Hechinger Report.” - Communications Strategy Group, July 22, 2014

The Sabbatical Proposal

Moorpark College Mathematics Department must take a proactive stance to be able to meet the needs of our future incoming freshmen.

During my sabbatical, I will:

- 1) Learn the curriculum and techniques associated with Common Core and the California Math Standards (Timeline: 4-5 days/week)
- 2) Establish connections with the math departments at Moorpark College's feeder high schools to create a bridge of communications about student success in mathematics (Timeline: start contact with department chairs immediately to visit department meetings)
- 3) Request visits to various K-12 math classes to observe the math lessons and class activity (Timeline: start contact immediately with neighboring schools to find willing instructors who will allow in-class visits)
- 4) Meet with various K-8 teachers and administrators about Common Core (Timeline: I assume this will be an organic progression of meetings...one will lead to the next)
- 5) Write a blog to document my findings and create a thoughtful dialogue with our community of teachers, parents, and students about Common Core (Timeline: At least weekly or biweekly)
- 6) Research results of the K-12 standardized testing to determine where the students will need the most remediation (Timeline: testing may only occur once during my sabbatical – data will be collected then)

At the conclusion of my sabbatical and continuing in the years leading up to our first crop of Common Core students (2019), I will:

- 1) Prepare Moorpark College mathematics faculty during department meetings to be able to meet the needs of students who have learned mathematics using Common Core techniques in High School (Fall 2017)
- 2) Promote District-Wide collegiality by interfacing with Oxnard and Ventura Colleges' math departments about my findings (Fall 2017)

- 3) Prepare Moorpark College counselors how to advise incoming freshmen in their math courses (Fall 2017)
- 4) Inform the Moorpark College Basic Skills committee of my findings and offer suggestions for increased success of our basic skills students (Fall 2017)
- 5) Determine if Moorpark College curriculum and/or textbooks need to be changed in order to bridge the gap between K-12 and higher education (yearly)
- 6) Create/modify summer bridge mathematics courses to offer an opportunity for students to become more “college ready” (Spring-Summer 2019)

Moorpark College will see approximately 2000 new freshmen in 2019. I will ensure the math department is equipped to be able to meet the needs of this new population of students.