Kaskaskia College

TITLE III

BUILDING A BRIDGE TO ACADEMIC SUCCESS AND BEYOND

What is Title III?

"The Title III Part A – Strengthening Institutions program helps eligible Institutions of Higher Education to become self-sufficient and expand their capacity to serve low-income students by providing funds to improve and strengthen the academic quality, institutional management, and fiscal stability of eligible institutions." (34 CFR 607.1)

Introduction

In 2020, Kaskaskia College was awarded a $2.2 million grant made up of one main program called, "Building a Bridge to Academic Success and Beyond." The overall goal is to 1) expand academic access through the revision of online core curriculum courses; 2) develop two new hybrid degree programs in Manufacturing and Nursing; 3) convert an existing Industrial Technology program to hybrid delivery; and 4) improve students' success by developing online tutoring and advising services.

COMPONENT 1

Revision of 32 core curriculum courses to reflect best practices for online delivery. Faculty revising these courses will be trained in the Quality Matters guidelines and receive assistance from the Title III Instructional Designer in a newly renovated Faculty Resource Center. In addition, online faculty and student orientation courses will be developed.

Current Progress

INST 135 Online Faculty Orientation

INST 135 will be offered through Canvas LMS over a 16-week period, and will be required for all new faculty to complete prior to teaching. INST 135 will familiarize instructors with the need-to-know tools and features of Canvas to prepare them for course design and delivery. The course will provide a base of pedagogical knowledge to help instructors accurately judge the impact of their decisions when developing and teaching their own online courses. The course provides an introduction to common learning management system (LMS) elements from both the instructor and student point of view. Participants will gain insight into their role as an instructor for an online course and learn best practices for teaching online, and will apply these practices by developing a sample course unit.
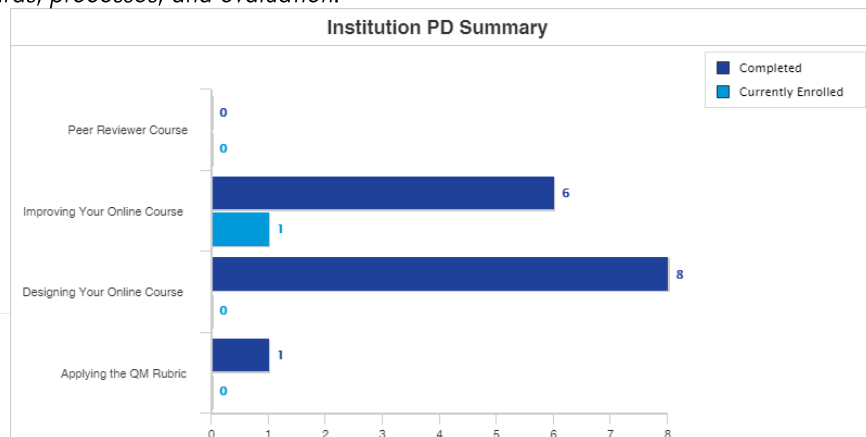
CITA 101 Introduction to Virtual Learning

VOCS 100 Online Orientation was revised and renamed CITA 101, Introduction to Virtual Learning. It is recommended that all first time Kaskaskia College students complete this one-time online orientation, which is taught on Canvas and contains helpful hints and tips to provide an introduction into the virtual learning environment. Some of the topics covered in the orientation include technology requirements, communication tools, assignment submission, plagiarism, online assessments, discussion forums, and access to grades.

Group 1 Faculty are scheduled to complete Quality Matters Training by October 2021 and begin revision of six core curriculum courses

Quality Matters promotes and improves the quality of online education and student learning through improving standards, processes, and evaluation.

Group 1 Course Revision/Pilot Schedule

Faculty Name	Course Redesigning	Pilot Term
Erin Campbell	INST 135 Online Faculty Orientation	SP22
Joyce Pryor	CITA 101 Online Student Orientation	FA21
Scott Crothers	PHLE 120 Ethics	SP22
Stephanie Burgher	PSYH 101 Psychology	FA21
Brandi Wilkins	SPCH 103 Fundamentals of Speech	SP22
Jeff Sulcer	HIST 103 History of the United States	SP22

Faculty Resource Center is currently being equipped with exciting technology and tools for faculty to improve online/hybrid courses.

One Button Studio and iMac editing station: Turns any small room into a recording studio that anybody can use! You simply insert a thumb drive & follow the prompts, deliver your presentation, pull out your thumb drive and walk away with a professionally produced video.

New furniture and layout will provide an active learning environment for faculty that allows more efficient collaboration and flexible work spaces.

A soft opening will be hosted in November with plans for a faculty/staff Open House in January. Regular faculty training will be offered upon completion of update to the space.
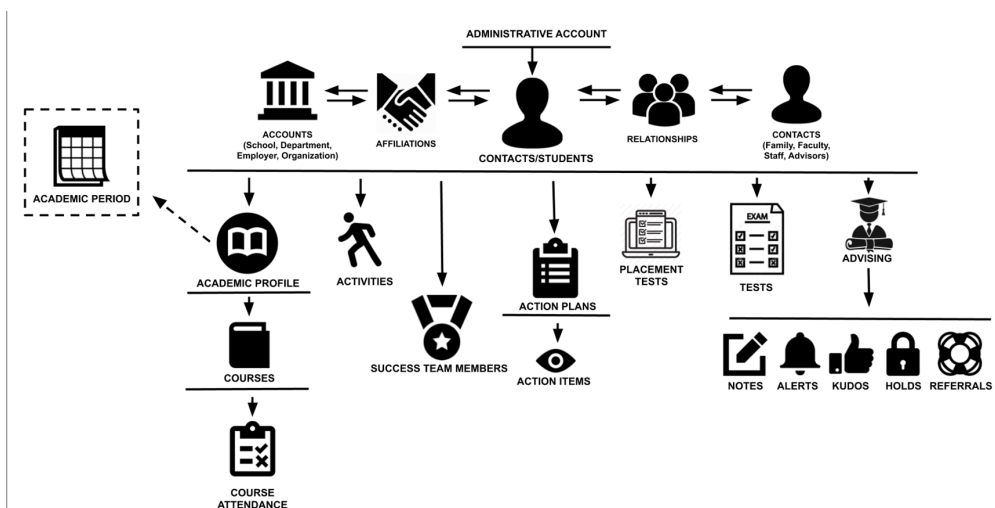

COMPONENT 2

Student support through online advising and tutoring services. An online tutoring system will be developed utilizing Tutor.com and real-time session with KC's online peer tutors using Zoom Rooms. A new Target X recruitment and retention software will connect to the college's Ellucian Student Planning module to assist in identifying and connecting students to online tutoring services.

Current Progress

Target X Retention Suite was purchased and project implementation has begun.

Target X software creates nonstop shop for students' needs by implementing a service-based approach to retention. It includes an early alert system based on specific criteria unique to the institution where students' needs can be identified in real-time — allowing for a proactive, rather than reactive, approach to outreach.
Workflows can be created to trigger campaigns to prevent at-risk students from slipping through the cracks. Counselors are better able to personalize their communications with students and support pathways with a complete history of a student's activities and touchpoints, all in one place. The system also makes it easy for students to schedule appointments to receive the help they need through a sleek, mobile-first scheduling platform.

Online tutoring is currently being implemented through Tutor.com.

Tutor.com provides personalized support to students through 24/7 online tutoring, and allows access to reporting tools for administrators and instructors to identify student knowledge gaps.

Colleges that switch from other online tutoring solutions to Tutor.com see an immediate increase in student use and satisfaction;
- 84% of students who used Tutor.com received a passing grade vs. 68% of students who did not use Tutor.com.**
- 88% of students who used Tutor.com reenrolled the next term vs. 70% of students who did not use Tutor.com.**
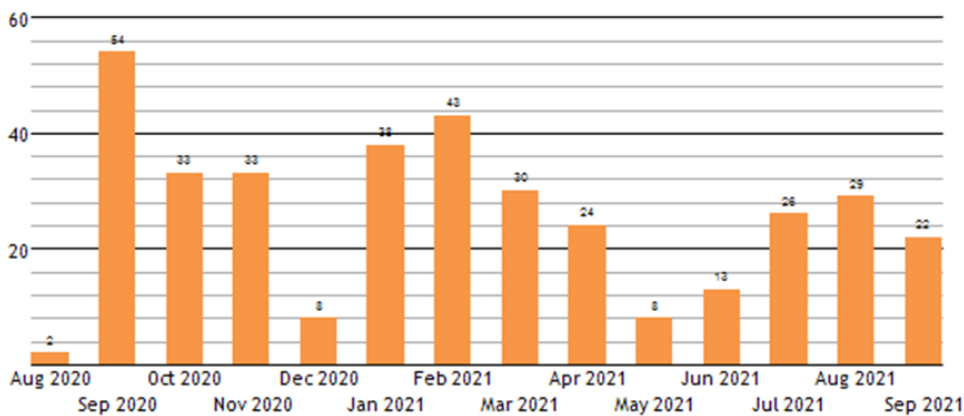- 96% of students reported improved grades and more confidence after a Tutor.com session.***

*United States, National Center for Education Statistics, "Table 326.10." https://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d15/tables/dt15_326.10.asp
**Ruffalo Noel Levitz, "Efficacy Study: Final Report April 2015 for Tutor.com" (Report, United States of America, 2015)
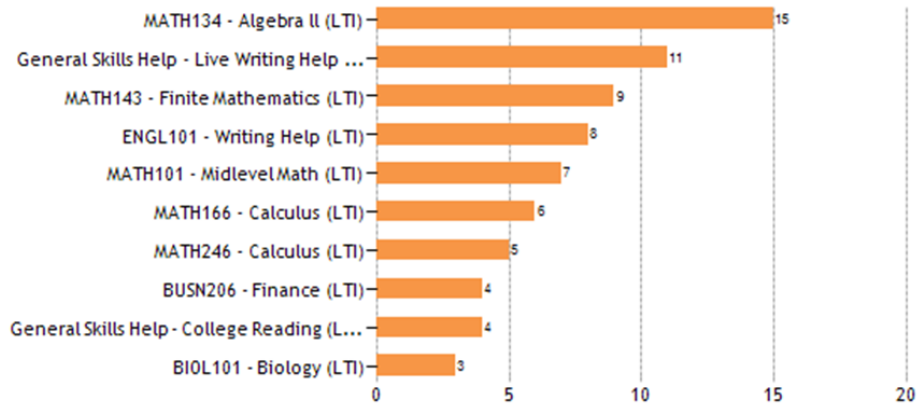***Based on thousands of surveys submitted by Tutor.com users in 2016

KC student data and feedback:

Program Usage Summary (sessions)

Top Sessions by Subject

"My tutor was extremely helpful and patient, was more than willing to help with everything I had troubles with."
"This helped me a lot"
"Tutor was extremely helpful and helped me with all the problems I needed help on."
"Was kind and willing to work with me on any and all problems I had. 10/10 recommend."
"Made it simple to understand, encouraged participation. 10/10"
"She made sure I understood each step and helped me complete my math problem! I understand it much better now."

COMPONENT 3

The existing Industrial Technology program will be revised to address up-to-date industry standards with access to the latest technology in the field, as well as converted to hybrid delivery. A new high-demand hybrid Manufacturing Certificate and Associate of Applied Science program will be developed. Courses required to provide a hybrid LPN to RN Nursing Bridge program, resulting in an Associate's Degree in Nursing, will be developed.

Current Progress

Mechatronics equipment for Industrial Technology program has been purchased and installed in the classroom at Crisp Technology Center. This multi-station training system will be used by students to simulate manufacturing processes, process automation, industrial integration, and networking.

Industrial Technology Instructor has completed Quality Matters training and Year 1 course conversion.

Course Conversion to Hybrid Year 1/Pilot Year 2
INDT 105 D.C. Fundamentals
INDT 106 A.C. Fundamentals
INDT 111 Industrial Safety
INDT 112 Basic Digital
INDT 130 Basic Air Conditioning and Refrigeration
INDT 220 Solid State