

## Supporting Developmental Education Programs

The Learning Labs provide a comprehensive support network (professional staff, material resources, space, and equipment) to facilitate implementation of instructional activities. Developmental faculty collaborate with learning lab managers, instructional associates, and learning lab computer support staff to select software that supplements classroom instruction and that can be used for independent study and tutorials. They also collaborate to provide computer classroom instruction and various types of lab activities. The Learning Lab provides support staff, materials, and space to allow for a variety of instructional strategies that include the following:

- ❑ *Lab component.* Many developmental courses include a lab component, which consists of an additional hour of assigned activities. Learning Lab staff members assist students in completing their assigned modules. Instructors may include additional activities or lab components that utilize lab resources as part of their curriculum. Faculty can send individual students or have their whole class assigned software as supplemental practice outside the classroom or as an in-class activity.
- ❑ *Computer-mediated Developmental Mathematics classes.* All the Learning Labs house the PLATO Learning Interactive Mathematics software used in teaching these computer-mediated developmental math classes. Students enrolled in these courses are able to work on assignments in the tutoring labs where content area assistance is available.
- ❑ *Teaching assistance for learning communities (e.g., Triangle Program) and combined classes, (e.g., Reading Skills I & II).* Because of the widely varying skills of students, an Instructional Associate or master tutor may be assigned to a developmental classroom to assist the instructor by either working one-on-one with students or in small groups.
- ❑ *Faculty-assigned prescriptive instruction.* Students may be assigned print or computer-based self-paced learning activities and work outside the classroom under the guidance of a tutor.
- ❑ *Skill-building practice activities.* When an instructor realizes a student has serious skill deficiencies, she/he may assign specific learning modules for that student in addition to regular class assignments. Individual students also may self-refer to work on software tutorials at their own pace.
- ❑ *Support for CCE/CCA (Course Credit Exchange / Course Credit Alternative).* The Learning Labs provide tutors and space for independent learning activities for developmental students in CCE/CCA. All learning activities are tailored to the individual student and take place in the learning labs. Activities are prescribed by the instructor and overseen by Instructional Associates who keep in communication with instructor to report on student progress.
- ❑ *Diagnostic testing.* Diagnostic testing is primarily performed at the request of instructors by Learning Lab Reading IAs for appropriate placement of students. The Learning Labs also provide self-assessment tools for learning styles and study skills.
- ❑ Computer Support

- ◆ Computer Support Technicians provide computer support for individual students and whole classes. This support includes management of student data, such as setting up individual students as well as entire classes on software. Upon faculty request, computer support technicians make changes to individual student's assigned level or content within an assigned tutorial. Additionally computer support technicians create and generate reports on student progress, which faculty may request throughout the semester.
- ◆ Computer Support Technicians also provide training to students. They conduct lab orientations for individual students and whole classes on computer basics and lab procedures. These lab orientations and in-class workshops assist students in using tutorial software, Microsoft Office, the Internet, and email. These orientations to software and lab procedures conducted by learning lab computer staff members make students feel more comfortable about using the software and lab resources, or asking for assistance.
- ◆ Computer Support Technicians assist lab managers with the presentation of software demonstrations and pilots and serve as technical resources for other college departments when investigating new software purchases and renewals. They facilitate software presentations and workshops designed to familiarize faculty and lab staff with the latest instructional software recommended by task forces. They may also provide training in use of software.