

AVATAR

Campus College Culture

Syllabus

College Transition Class vs.
College Prep Class

Teach kids
"How to Ask
for Help"

Practice communication vs.
reactive communication

Student Interactive
activities for C & CR

Student competency built
vertically in same content
area

YouTube Videos—Guided
discussion with first year
college students

Student
Mentor

College
Advisors
on campus

WHY?

Aren't they
coming,
comprehending?

Who will they
listen to?

Challenges

Student Anxiety

Lack of Competency

Unfamiliarity

Low threshold for perseverance

STUDENT ADMISSION/TRANSITION

- Letters of recommendation
 - Give notice to teachers
 - Provide resume
 - Provide ample time for response
- Deadlines
- Follow Through
- Stress importance of FAFSA—understanding WHY?
- Transcripts/Shot Records/Bac. Men Records
- "No Excused Absences"
- Procedural updates for "how to" help students with transitions/admissions
- YouTube videos on college expectations
 - Webadvisor orientation
 - Blackboard overview
 - How to handle college
- YouTube videos on college expectations

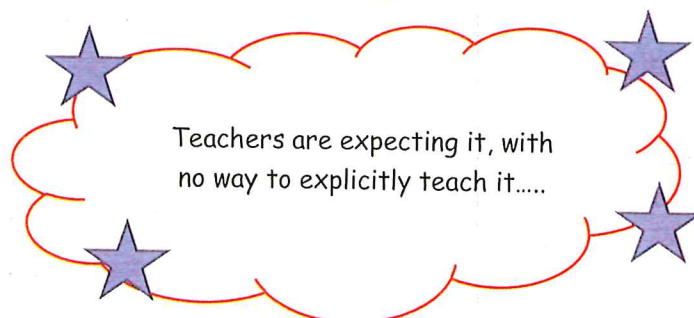
STUDENT RETENTION

- Study Skills—collegiate environment
- Students often lack GRIT
- Not academically or emotionally ready
- Homesick
- Lack independent skills "survival skills"

Beware of Helicopter Moms



STUDENT COMPLETION



AVATAR Training April 17, 2015

Frequently Asked Questions

College to High School (Counseling/Admissions)

Communication to Juniors/Seniors regarding Dual Credit	Do High Schools do financial literacy training? (college budgeting?)	Do high schools do college schedule building or reading degree plans?	Do high schools have a transitions class where they teach expectations and college/culture ?
What are the parents of students told about financial aid (beyond FAFSA)?	What are parents of students told about selecting dual credit courses carefully? (right courses, right amount of credits while in HS, etc.)?		Not to replace college advisor, but to cover "lingo", to make visits with advisor more productive

AVATAR Training April 17, 2015

Frequently Asked Questions

High School to College (Counseling/Admissions)

Communication of status information to students	Dual Credit US History vs. EOC/STAAR US History Differences? Similarities?	Times for Dual Credit= what is a good timeline?	Professors vs. Teachers Highly Qualified? Requirements ?
Lack of Communication for Seniors- Safeguards?	TSI/College Readiness- Boot camps? Onsite testing ?		

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"Need to Know" College to High School (Counseling/Admissions)

Name(s): _____ School/College: _____

Colleges communicate electronically- NOT through US mail. Students MUST know to check college student e-mail address

Know how to access student email for each college. Search website, contact someone. Parents, counselors, etc. can't do things for the students

Deadlines, Deadlines, Deadlines

The difference between academic/transfer and workforce courses and programs- and where they lead

Early admission & Dual Credit after high school, students must re-apply for admission at many colleges. They always need to submit a final high school transcript

Students should be aware of necessary programs- Student e-mail, WebAdvisor, Moodle/Blackboard.

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"Need to Know" from High School to College (Counseling/Admissions)

Name(s): _____

School/College: _____

Students often need to apply to a particular program (e.d., RN nursing, Aircraft Pilot Training) after they're admitted to a college.

College Advising: There is no substitute. See/contact advisors at desired college

MCC requires all new students, including those who have been dual credit or are early admission, to go through online orientation and "connections" prior to advising.

High school math, such as algebra or pre-cal is NOT considered equivalent to college-level algebra or pre-cal.

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Frequently Asked Questions

High School to College (Math)

Communication of status information to students	How to identify if students need remediation for college- TSI, EOC? PSAT?	What level of statistics is necessary for students to be successful?	What is the trend for using calculators in college math? (TSI, 4-function)?
How do we transition from giving retests to a college setting NOT doing this?			

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"Need to Know" (Math)

Name(s): _____

School/College: _____

How do we identify students for college prep courses? Should this be Jr. year? (Yes) Can STAAR be used? (Alg. 1 EOC for Math?) Could we re-administer the released tests to Juniors to assess? Is there a test like A&M gives their students? Can we or should we have high schools begin giving TSI? How would English (ELAR) assess or identify students as well?

How do we connect with institutions of Higher Education?

- Do any school districts have MOA (for course/content collaboration?)
- Will final exams be given by (created by) the HS or IHE?
- Will teachers be able to see tests ahead of time?
- Who needs to create the course?
- How will HS teachers know they are teaching required curriculum if the course and test are created by IHE?
- Since this is by law, how are we going to work this out ?

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Frequently Asked Questions

College to High School (ELAR)

Communication to Juniors/Seniors regarding Dual Credit	Ask the "why" and the "how" questions.	Let kids know that it is important to be willing to reach out to professors for answers to questions or help.	Students tend to take bad grades personally.
Most students do not come to college ready to facilitate their own learning and take initiative with their assignments	Time management is a problem when students do not know how to balance academics and extracurricular activities with life.	Students are not accustomed to being assigned zeros for missing work.	High school policies prohibit students from being prepared for the rigors of college.
It takes time to learn, so students must lean perseverance.	Some colleges may feel more like high school because of pressure for enrollment and failure rate influencing graduation rates.	How often do students really fail in high school?	Idea: Create a repository of assignments from colleges to give high schools an idea of college expectations.

AVATAR Training May 13, 2016

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AVATAR Training April 17, 2016

Frequently Asked Questions

[High School to College \(ELAR\)](#)

Communication of status information to students	Our students have been trained k-12 to focus on feelings, not critical thinking.	Parents do so much for our students that the students are not independent.	Students have come to expect teachers to give them everything they need to be successful.
Is college becoming more like high school?	What do we need to know about college policies in order to align our high school policies/ prepare kids?	How much and what kind of writing is required on the TSI? – mainly explanatory- many responses from recent tests were too short.	

AVATAR Training May 13, 2016

"Need to Know" English (ELAR)

Name(s): _____

School/College: _____

FAQs for Kids- From High School to College

What is the policy of incomplete work or zeros? – it may vary by professor.

Most Dual Credit classes can be taught to the expectations of the college classroom, with the exception of the attendance policy. Technically, student can lose a high school credit for attendance, but maintain the college credit because of a variation in requirements.

Begin asking questions and talking about requirements for a college credit class in your freshman year of high school.

FAQs for kids from College to High School

Pay attention to how each instructor grades. Read the syllabus.

Learn to adapt quickly to the change that is college- it prepares you for changes in your career.

Understand that how you read is more important than what you read. Question yourself.

Learn to manage your time- use a calendar. Plan for every event in your day when you have a full schedule.

Understand grading and attendance policies and how they impact your transcripts, the cost of courses you must retake and accessibility to financial aid. These policies are tied to the college portion of your dual credit instruction.

Craftx Lessons

Web Site: Craftx.org

Observations

Overall, the teachers liked the lessons. Many of them participated in the opportunity to use the lessons in class. The lessons seems to work best with English IV. Many teachers were not able to make the lessons work for the college level instruction in dual credit, or in AP classes.

A Working Plan of Action for 2015

We will share the Craftx lessons with Jr. and Sr. English teachers on our campus.

Those of us who have not yet had the opportunity to sample the lessons will do so, and share findings with the group.

Recommendation: Craftx lesson on plagiarism

"Need to Know" from Colleges to High School:

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AVATAR Training April 17, 2015

Frequently Asked Questions

College to High School

1. Communication to Juniors/Seniors regarding Dual Credit				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				

AVATAR Training April 17, 2015

Frequently Asked Questions

High School to College

1. Communication of status information to students				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				

If a student takes a Dual Credit class and fails, are they “blocked” from all dual credit after the failure?

Depends: If a student is taking a 3 hour course, and that is their only failure, then they can take the second class, but if they do not have a 2.0 in their course work, they may be blocked from taking further dual credit classes. If they have more than 3+ withdrawals, then they are blocked from dual credit for at least a year.

This is a safeguard for students who may exit high school and will enter the collegiate environment with less than 2.0.

Students may repeat a class. A retake doesn’t replace the course on the transcript, but can count into a GPA calculation if it is higher.

W’s on transcripts before exit of HS will not count on their transcripts, but it will count against financial aid. 6 W’s on a post-HS transcript bars them from college admission/transfer.

Satisfactory progress: 2.0 / **67% completion rate**

Maximum Timeframe: 150% of published program

Repeated Course Rule: Only 1 retake after a passing course.

An F counts against GPA, and is a “non-completed course”. Counts against student twice (technically)

Recommendation for counselors to ask for a grade report to check on students’ progress in DC.

Classes	Grade	Grade	Grade	Transcript	GPA	Completion
2 DC Classes	1 F	1 W		0	0	0
After HS	2C	1D		0	0	60
*After HS	2C	1D	2B	*	*	?

**This student is likely ineligible for financial aid due to continue*

Financial Aid consideration is huge to the dual credit student.

Wavers:

FRL students typically are automatic for admission on waiver.

Every year there must be a signature on a waiver for all students now, regardless of their eligibility status.

First level of Transfer Block courses are “safe” courses that are generally transferable for all universities.

If there is no plan for transfer, then the student is encouraged to stay within the 18-hour block and not risk taking courses that may not transfer.

Check: Core Curriculum AP & Course Transfer Policies

Desired Degree Plan **Accepted Texas Common Course Numbers**

Some universities (UT) require a certain block in their curriculum before admission into a certain college (within the university). ie: 24 hours to go into College of Engineering at UT..

At 18 hours, all students at MCC (dual credit or otherwise) are REQUIRED to see an advisor.

AP: Whether or not this is accepted or not by the college and/or university.

District policy may mitigate the dual credit participation

TSI: (Co Board may do away with certain aspects of waiver). Qualifying achievement scores may be acceptable on: ACT, SAT, English III, and Algebra II (the only exemptions that the student may use). It's a safer recommendation to require all students to take TSI anyway, and a district may elect to do this.

Some students have been successful on English III, and have been sufficient on Algebra I EOC and Algebra II coursework and have *not* been college-ready.

TSI Bootcamps in summer:

2 weeks in summer. Possibly changing to a 1 day camp. Students would pick a subject and would participate on area of needs. Looking at Friday(s). There would be tutoring programs, access to specialists in their area of need. Possibly short session to download TSI app on their phone. Tutoring program would include additional 3 weeks to log-in and work through units for improved performance. TSI would not be included in the course, because many schools are TSI sites. 1 month to prepare, and may run \$15-25 for students (should include lunch).

Could the bootcamp be conducted on-site at a HS campus?
(Londa is checking on this)

TSI is coming to be taken for all Juniors (at Lorena). Asking for English rep from MCC to come into the English class to help them prep. Someone from Tutoring Center may be available.

Free online practice test is available. Austin Community College?

Dual Credit Orientation video. [McLennan Dual Credit on YouTube](#)

Notes and Homework, Financial Aid Implications, Classroom Attitude, Online Courses, Credit hours and Course numbers, etc.

Student orientation video: mclennan.edu

There is a dual credit orientation video as well as a regular orientation video. (Youtube/Vimeo)

A college transitions class is at Lorena and Robinson

The videos could be utilized in a classroom setting as well as on screens in commons areas and around the schools for a "college minute" video to orient students through exposure opportunities.

[Document title]

Connally students are taking it as Seniors. Lorena is taking it as Juniors/Seniors.
Possibly Sophomore class?

Texas Reality Check through Texas Workforce Commission generated this.
TG Major Choices

Rapoport Activity- Interactive activity for life activities including money and education

Major Changes? We've all been there.

Accidental success...

7th-8th graders picking their plans (starting with academic strengths)

AVATAR Training March 20, 2015

Welcome & Introductions, Fred Hill and Chris Holecek

AVATAR- Academic Vertical Alignment Training and Renewal, culminating in an event at ESC Region 12 on June 11th, 2015 at Regional Counselor Appreciation Luncheon

P-20 Council; Workforce Development presentation.

Prosper Waco Initiative: Prosper Waco is about Central Texas and not just Waco. Poverty, Education, and Healthcare (mental health?). Issues in Central Texas that impact growth and development.

Bosque, Falls, Freestone, Hill, Limestone, McLennan are all below median income level for Texas.

AVATAR is focused on College Readiness component of P-20.

Texas average percentage of Bachelor's Degree is 26.3, Bosque, Falls, Freestone, Hill, Limestone, and McLennan are all below that. 21.8 for McLennan.

Many educated professionals leave because there are less opportunities for them to stay in Central Texas. Less pay for families seeking greater financial gain.

Denise Bell explains Phase-in process for STAAR testing in Texas.

*Question for Denise: Legislative conversation on students not passing all EOCs and a committee allowing them to graduate without passing (2 of 5, must pass 3 of 5 to graduate). Later conversation on this.

Education institutions are accessible: by region and via online. The opportunities are there.

What can we do to prepare them academically and socially to go on and be successful in a collegiate environment?

Large percentages of students in Central Texas enrolled in college/ university. How many are completers?

32% of local HS grads enrolled at MCC have to take remedial courses in college

41% of those enrolled have had at least one developmental need. Most needed math (70.7% of the 41%)

Top 25% students in their high schools are making "C" averages in their first year of math in college....

*Go into Higher Ed. Coordinating to see cohort data on students.

*Fred Hill: Students who have deficiencies in writing or reading have to take a remedial course in both. Statewide, it's required for students who show deficiencies to participate in remedial courses for both if they show a deficiency in one area (writing / reading)

Does new TSI have impact on this deficiency and how is the data being used.

HB 5: Look at each student and determine if students are truly ready for post-secondary settings.

THECB.state.tx.us Next AVATAR meeting: we will have an information session on how to pull data from this site for individual students.

SAT/ACT exam: Are students ready for college?

High Schools governed by TEA

Colleges/Universities governed by THECB.. Do they talk???

Higher levels of poverty in Falls, Limestone, and McLennan county

Rural areas losing population relative to state and getting older

Overview of College Prep for ELAR

Denise Bell shares about College Prep. Rules must be made for the law and the Commissioner and TEA have final say in how to conduct or carry out the state mandate.

Alignment discussions. Took TSI just like students. Responsiveness and how to navigate the test. A huge awareness activity for teachers. **English I and II EOC is completely different than TSI.** TSI measuring Literary Analysis, not necessarily mechanics, literary devices & reading comprehension. "Content teachers" were taking interpretive tests...What does a STAAR score really mean in terms of higher ed?

Lessons discussion. How do they align to courses in ELAR in higher ed? Big differences in English IV lessons and testing and TSI and higher ed. Lessons would need to be built. Developmental course would need new and improved lessons. English IV teachers and Freshman College Teachers learned a lot and had good discussion about content, grading essays, etc. Eliminated "assumed" skills. Lessons in relation to the course. HB 5 district offers class for HB 5 students...Offer is a different meaning....High Schools can offer it and if there are not enough students, then they drop it. #1 Just a local credit, and not taken because it doesn't matter on transcript that greatly. Colleges offer a class and hold it no matter the number of students who attend.

Last assessment conference: SAT/ACT, scores can be substituted for EOC. Many participants wanted TSI added to that, so that a certain score can exempt a student from the EOC.

Question: What does the TSI Boot Camp look like? How is that being taught? Londa says there are rhetorical question instruction and more heavy emphasis on interpretation, rather than a focus on literature. Courses in college are not literature-based courses...

Dual credit: Shock on the technical reading and analysis expectation in high school, but the communication structure and organization (not focused on in the last 2 years after English II EOC), which is expected and focused on in the entrance college composition.

Session #43452 on April 14, 2015 at ESC on HB 5 and Questions with Denise

Financial Literacy component incorporated into collegiate programs because of lack of skills by students

CRA for CRAFT: College Readiness Assignments for Texas

BJ Williams for Math Group:

"Stanford University: How to Learn Mathematics for Students" free online course for students. Every time you make a mistake, you learn. Not about whether or not you get it right away, it's about whether you learned anything and whether or not you are ready to stay with the problem until it's fixed. Not a "math gene". Are you willing to put forth the effort.

I'm not smarter than everyone else, I'm willing to work harder than everyone else.

Concentration on Algebra II. Delved into College Prep Courses. Examination of Developmental courses.. Looked at goal and went into standards. Looked at TSI.

Ability to factor or to work problems "face value" and no trickery. There is a calculator component on the TSI. There is a non-calculator component on the SAT (25 minute) in addition to the 55 minute calculator section on the SAT. Twice the Algebra and some Trigonometry. Less Geometry.

Trigonometry is incorporated into Pre-Calculus to help address this.

Curricular question: If student is taking SAT their Junior year, and Algebra II is going to be taught at Junior Year. Shouldn't SAT be taken later in the Junior year?

Algebra I taught in 8th grade, why not World Geography? We don't do that...

Biology, Chemistry, and Physics...always taught that way because B and C come before P!!!

Colleges phasing out Algebra II and phase in Statistics. Is College Algebra needed? If not, Stats is coming.

Does a child NEED Algebra II? STEM major is required to take Algebra II. For endorsements, you have to have 4 maths, but not necessarily Algebra II. But Distinguished level is only able to be achieved with Algebra II.

Most students in College Algebra failed if they did not make A's in Algebra II in High School.

College Trig/Pre-Cal a better option than Stats?

Sequence for Math at MCC demands strong math background at HS. Math department placement test help determine where the student is placed.

April 17th meeting can include Math teachers as well as ELAR AVATAR groups.

Critical Conversations on College Transitions

Jeni Janek: Take away topics that will address all of the threads we will cover.

Counselor Advocacy will be a big focus moving forward as there is an enormous need for this around the state. Jeni talked about the ways she is advocating for counselors via her counselor connection newsletter and collaboration with other specialists.

Addressing a bigger global picture: Do you see a problem with your students getting into college or being prepared?

High School

Students



- Remind 101
- Global Figures
- Meetings-no one

-----Why aren't students comprehending????-----Who will they listen to????

Student Challenges

- Student Anxiety
- Lack of Competency
- Unfamiliarity
- Low threshold for perseverance

Student Mentor/Advisor

- College Advisors on Campus

Student interactive activities for College & Career Readiness

- Teach students "How to Ask"

Student admission/transition process

- Letters of Recommendation
 - Give notice to teachers (2 weeks in advance)
 - Resume development
 - What to do when you need a person to complete a letter
- Deadlines-preparation BEFORE
- Follow through with students
- Importance of completing the FAFSA
 - Understanding why they need to do it
- Don't understand how/why to send transcripts & bacterial meningitis vaccination records
- No excused absences-There or Not
- Procedural updates for "how to" help students with transitions/admissions
- Videos-YouTube
 - How to make online payments
 - Webadvisor/orientation
 - Blackboard
 - How to handle absence in college

-----Syllabus???-----

-----Student Competency build vertically in the same content area-----

AVATAR


-----College transition class-----

-----YouTube videos: guided discussion w/college freshman-----

-----Campus College Culture-----

-----Proactive communication vs. reactive communication-----

Student Retention

- Study Skills-Collegiate environment
 - HS-Lots of retests
 - College=not so much! 
- LACK GRIT!
- Academic & Development /Socially---READY
- Homesick
- Lack of independent "survival skills"

Student Completion

"Teachers are expecting it, with no way to explicitly teach it..."

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