

NEWS BY YOU

MCC gives students extra help with their writing skills

Submitted by Mesa Community College spokeswoman Angela Askey.

Mesa Community College's English Department is providing students who may need a little extra assistance in writing an opportunity to advance their skills through a new Accelerated Learning Program (ALP).

In fall 2012, MCC began the pilot program to help developmental writing students succeed in First-Year Composition (ENG101) courses.

Upon acceptance at MCC, students take placement exams, including the WritePlacer.

Students who earn a score of 4 and are reading at the college-level may choose to join the ALP. They then register for both Fundamentals of Writing (ENG091) along with ENG101.

By taking the ENG101 class and immediately going to ENG091, all in one day, students are able to receive individual-

ized instruction from the same instructor and develop a learning community.

Additional advantages to students enrolled in the ALP include smaller class sizes, ability to develop relationships with peers, feeling a sense of community, and the opportunity to focus on developing other skills, such as time management.

During last fall's semester, 52 percent of incoming students tested into at least one developmental (below college level) course.

Of these students, 32 percent tested into developmental English.

The Fall 2012 cohort of ALP included 36 students in five classes. At the completion of the semester, 75 percent of passed ENG091 and ENG101 in one semester with a grade of C or higher.

This spring, MCC is offering three sections of ALP: two at the Southern and Dobson campus and one at the Red Mountain campus.