Supporting Underprepared ESL Students

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Outline

1. Background
2. Underprepared ESL Students
3. Identifying Student Readiness
4. Orient students to college life
5. Continually support student success
6. Use supportive grading practices
Background

Association of College and University Educators (ACUE)
- Effective Teaching Practices

Universal Access Teaching Circle
At SLCC
Underprepared ESL Students

Underprepared ESL students are:

- Students who are unfamiliar with studying at U.S. Colleges/Universities
- Students who are lacking study skills
- Students who are needing extra assistance with coursework
- Students who are unfamiliar with U.S. culture
- Students who are unfamiliar with available student resources and services
- Students whose education was interrupted
Why support underprepared students?

- Promote academic success
- Promote student retention
- Encourage independent learner skills
- Improve student participation in class and college/university activities
- Improve student awareness of college/university resources
Identify and Take Action

Start early identifying student readiness and supporting students who may need extra help
Early Actions

- Early diagnostic test, non-graded assignment
- Gather information - Placement Test Score, First Week Surveys
- Meet one-on-one
- Assist students in accessing institutional, departmental, or course resources
- Invite student support personnel to come to your classroom and talk about their services
- Help students set up regular tutoring sessions if possible
## Orient Students to College Life

- **Syllabus** – Engage students with the syllabus

- **Textbook** – Show students how to find and use textbook resources, online dictionary, online publisher materials, Quizlet

- **LMS** - Step-by-step, in-person, create screencast instructional videos

- **Course Calendar, Announcements, Discussion Board**

- **School Website** – Academic calendar, email account, tech support, activities/clubs,

- **Campus** – instructor’s office, advisor’s office, counseling center, tutoring/writing center, food pantry, bulletin boards, library services
Provide Continual Support

- Communicate clear expectations
- Reminders of deadlines, checking LMS, email –
- **build in checks for major assignments such as topic, outline, draft deadlines**
  - Pair classmates who are willing to help/encourage
  - Foster a classroom community
  - Offer a variety of assignment types and modes of instruction
- **integrate these topics into curriculum if possible**
Provide Continual Support (Cont.)

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- Foster a classroom community
- Offer a variety of assignment types and modes of instruction
Grading and Assignments

1. Provide models for major assignments
2. Provide detailed instructions and checklists
3. Create study guides/practice tests
4. Allow students to use feedback and revise
5. Provide self-assessment opportunities using rubrics or checklists
6. Provide mid-term grade reports
7. Conduct mid-term surveys
Conclusion

Supporting underprepared ESL students is key to helping them be successful and more engaged in their college/university.

Providing students with tools and guidance will help ensure that they have the support needed for their academic journey.
Questions?

If you have any questions, please contact:

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References
