

Read Right Reading Comprehension Program Scores Rapid Improvement

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A reading program used by colleges in many regions of the United States is quickly improving the reading skills of adult students of all ages.

Using two different systems of measurement, Kim Whalen of Ozarks Technical College recently examined the progress of 406 multi-age students enrolled in the college's Read Right Reading Comprehension Program during six separate semesters. After only one semester of tutoring, improvement was significant. The two systems of measure were the COMPASS reading test and the American College Testing (ACT) program's ASSET reading test.

Between Fall 2008 and Summer 2009, average student pre-test scores on the COMPASS were 61.1, 63.7, and 55 out of 99 possible, indicating insufficient skills to be successful with college-level reading material. After students received one semester of small-group tutoring in the Read Right program, students in all three semesters scored in a range more appropriate for college-level reading (72.9, 70.7, and 72). In the COMPASS system, colleges determine their own "cut-off" scores for recommending or requiring developmental reading programs. The cut-off typically ranges between 70 and 85. A score of 70 is broadly viewed as minimally sufficient for handling college-level coursework. Again, the results for each group were achieved after only one semester of tutoring.

Ozarks' reading comprehension program staff switched to ACT's ASSET test in the Fall of 2009. Students starting the Read Right program scored on average 36.7, 36.9, and 38.2 out of 54 possible. At the end of the semester, students scored on average 39.0, 40.3, and 40.6. Many colleges use a score of 40 to 41 as the cut-off for their developmental reading requirement.

"Colleges in general are concerned about the large number of students with reading skills significantly below a level that will support success," Whalen notes. "The results show that our Read Right program helps students build their reading skills quickly. Students need that."

Ozarks Technical College offers a site-based Read Right program, with one tutor tutoring up to five students every session. Read Right Systems, Inc. now also offers an Online Tutoring Service to colleges. The new service uses the latest in video conferencing technology and the exact same tutoring methods as those used at site-based programs to deliver tutoring to up to four students per session. Students see and hear the Read Right tutor and access the program from a site on campus or the convenience of their own homes or dorm rooms.

Read more about Read Right at www.readright.com.