

## **Recent Educational Research at College of DuPage Reveals Important Implications for Student Advising**

Some students may not be as likely to succeed because they have inadequate backgrounds for the classes in which they are enrolled. Three faculty members recently concluded Innovation Incubator projects in chemistry and mathematics and arrived at similar conclusions concerning the effects of advising on student success. They concluded that faculty and advisors could facilitate appropriate placement when they confirm students have completed the prerequisites. Summaries of the results of these completed Innovation Incubator Projects are attached. The summaries include recommendations made by the Principal Investigators.

- In investigating the use of PowerPoint presentations in Chemistry 151(Principles of Chemistry) classes, Dan Fuller found that the results of the pretest suggested a very low level of understanding of the basic principles of chemistry at the outset of the college course. His recommendation is for the Division of Natural Science at College of DuPage to implement a route for under prepared students to be placed in the most appropriate chemistry course, as is done presently in mathematics.
- Diane Long and John Sullivan investigated the effects of two-day-per-week and five-day-per-week scheduling for Math 128 (College Algebra for non-mathematics majors) students and recommend that faculty and advisors make students aware of the possible impact of course format on their success in mathematics coursework. Data since the inception of the course indicates a significantly higher withdrawal rate for students in the two-days-per-week format. They found that nearly 20 percent of the students registered in their fall 2000 - Math 128 classes did not have the proper prerequisites. Long and Sullivan conclude that if the registration process could deter students without proper prerequisites from registering for courses in which they have little likelihood of success, there would be fewer withdrawals. They also recommend that faculty uniformly check prerequisites.
- You can find these and the summaries of all completed projects on the Innovation Incubator website:

[http://www.cod.edu/Academic/AcadServ/Inn\\_Inc/Innovation\\_Incubator.htm](http://www.cod.edu/Academic/AcadServ/Inn_Inc/Innovation_Incubator.htm)

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