

# GUIDED SELF PLACEMENT FOR ESL AT SOUTHWESTERN COLLEGE

Courtney Bussell

ESL Department Chair, Southwestern College

[cbussell@swccd.edu](mailto:cbussell@swccd.edu)

## ESL GUIDED SELF-PLACEMENT (GSP) AT SOUTHWESTERN COLLEGE

- Why did we decide to move to GSP?
- What is our GSP process?
- Key things to keep in mind
- What can noncredit ESL and adult school ESL programs do to prepare their students for GSP into credit ESL college programs?
- Sources

## WHY GSP? PLACEMENT TESTS ARE NOT GOOD PREDICTORS OF SUCCESS.

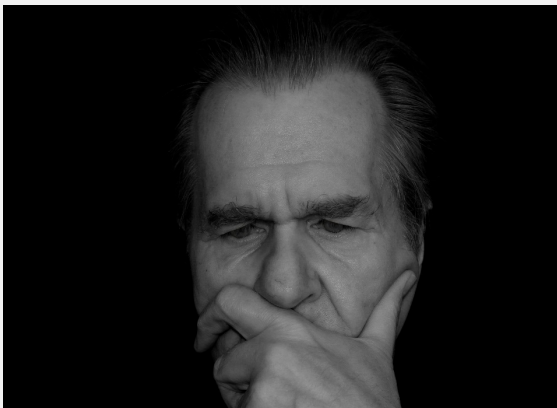
- [Research presented by the RP group](#) and others indicates that placement tests are notoriously poor predictors of student achievement.

# WHY GSP? WE WERE UNDER-PLACING OUR STUDENTS

- [2018 - Analysis of ESL student data at SWC](#)
- Under-placing with writing sample placement test

Fall 2010 - Spring 2017

98% - 100% placed last level of ESL – passed ESL and then Transfer Level English I15.



What does this mean??

→ Access was limited

# WHY GSP? FAIRNESS AND EQUITY CONCERNS



- Keeping our old placement test would mean that barriers into advanced ESL were much higher than those into Transfer Level English

# WHAT IS OUR GSP PROCESS?

## UNDER DEVELOPMENT

Student:

1. Takes a [survey](#).
2. Reads [sample materials and student writing](#) from all levels of our academic ESL program.
3. Reads [detailed information](#) about our ESL program.
4. [Chooses their best level](#) in the program.
5. [Is given a placement](#) based on their choice and other measures determine the student's placement.
6. [Is provided with information](#) about registration and college resources.

## KEY THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND ABOUT ESL GSP

- Not a test but an informational and educational process
- A huge mental perspective shift for everyone involved in the process
- Student empowerment (respect, responsibility, accountability, control)
- Big picture perspective of their own education

# WHAT CAN NONCREDIT AND ADULT SCHOOL ESL PROGRAMS DO TO PREPARE THEIR STUDENTS?



## GOOD DECISIONS

- English and Math Placement > high school GPA. GSP is recommended
- Communicate closely with your local colleges
- Students should be told about programs and processes to make a informed decisions



# SOURCES

- [Our Southwestern College GSP Materials](#) (PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL OF THESE ARE IN UNFINISHED DRAFT STATE)
- [Bunch, G., Endris, A., Panayotova, D., Romero, M., & Llosa, L. \(2011\). Mapping the Terrain: Language Testing and Placement for US-Educated Language Minority Students in California's Community Colleges \[FULL REPORT\]. UC Santa Cruz: Education Department. Re](#)
- [Callahan, Rebecca; Wilkinson, Lindsey; Muller, Chandra; and Frisco, Michelle, "ESL Placement and Schools: Effect on Immigrant Achievement" \(2009\). Sociology Faculty Publications and Presentations. 53.](#)  
[https://pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu/soc\\_fac/53](https://pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu/soc_fac/53)
- [Crusan, D. \(2010\). The Promise of Directed Self-Placement for Second Language Writers, TESOL Quarterly 44.](#)
- [Ruecker, T. \(2011\). Improving the placement of L2 writers: The students' perspective. WPA: Writing Program Administration, 35\(1\), 91-117](#)
- [Toth, Christie, and Laura Aull. "Directed Self-Placement Questionnaire Design: Practices, Problems, Possibilities." \*Assessing Writing\* 20 \(2014\): 1-18. Web.](#)

# THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING!

Help improve the Summer Institute, take the [survey](#)!

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For More information about Southwestern College GSP please contact:



Courtney Bussell



ESL Department Chair, Southwestern College

[cbussell@swccd.edu](mailto:cbussell@swccd.edu)