GUIDED SELF PLACEMENT FOR ESL AT SOUTHWESTERN COLLEGE

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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 115.

What does this mean??

Access was limited
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?

- 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 an informed decision

GOOD DECISIONS
SOURCES

- **Our Southwestern College GSP Materials** (PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL OF THESE ARE IN UNFINISHED DRAFT STATE)


- 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)


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For More information about Southwestern College GSP please contact:
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