

Math Redesign Project (Romeoville Campus)  
Frequently Asked Questions

**General Overview**

**What is the Math Redesign Project?**

The Math Redesign Project is a pilot that the JJC Math department is conducting for the Math 090, 094, and 098 courses at the Romeoville campus.

**Are any of the courses at any of the other campuses included in the pilot?**

No. The pilot is being conducted at the Romeoville campus only.

**When does the Math Redesign Project begin?**

The Math Redesign Project begins 2011SP.

**Will all of the Math 090, 094, and 098 courses be included at the Romeoville campus?**

Yes. All the classes (including the evening classes) will be included.

**Does the Math Redesign Project include Math 095 (Geometry)?**

No. The pilot includes all the developmental courses except Geometry.

**Will it continue past 2011 Spring?**

Definitely. Current expectations are that the pilot will be conducted 2011SP, 2011FL, and 2012SP. What happens beyond those dates depends on further assessment of the pilot and the needs of the JJC community.

**Will the pilot courses be held over the summer?**

No.

**How many students are affected by the new courses?**

The pilot affects approximately 325 students over 13 class sessions in three developmental courses. Remember, all of the Math 090, 094, and 098 courses at the Romeoville campus are part of the pilot.

**Where are the courses conducted?**

The pilot courses are conducted in Labs 74 and 75 at the Romeoville campus.

**Role of the Instructor**

**Is there an instructor?**

Yes, actually there are two instructors for every class.

**Do the instructors lecture as in a traditional class?**

No. The instructors do not lecture.

**What is the instructor's role?**

The instructor acts as a coach, mentor, and tutor. They encourage and facilitate group work within the classroom and conduct study groups (for difficult topics) outside of the classroom time. They communicate with students both in the classroom and via e-mail outside of the classroom. They monitor the grades and are an active participant in keeping the students on track.

## **Course Structure and Philosophy**

### **How do the students learn the material?**

Initially, the students learn the material from watching a video and taking notes. After they have completed this they do homework on the computer.

### **How does a student advance from one course to another?**

A student is required to watch video lectures, complete homework at a 95% mastery level, complete quizzes at a 90% mastery level, and complete tests at a 70% mastery level. At the end of each developmental course, a student must complete a final exam.

### **What is the course philosophy?**

Students learn math by doing math. Student engagement and participation is the key. Nothing is optional. Students must attend class, complete homework, take tests, watch videos, and write notes. Learning is presented in many forms; online, written response (notebooks), and small groups to name a few.

- ✓ Student-driven
- ✓ Self-accelerating
- ✓ Continuing content mastery required
- ✓ Teachers/tutors act as mentors
- ✓ Just-in-time tutoring
- ✓ Focus on best practices
- ✓ Works in tandem with traditional options
- ✓ Learning Community
- ✓ Student/Instructor/Coach Rapport

### **How is the course structured?**

The pilot courses are lab-based courses where the instructors act as mentors, tutors, and guides. Students will work in a lab setting using MyMathLab as their initial conduit of instruction. The MyMathLab software has been customized with content modified and enhanced by the JJC Math faculty pilot team. Optional workshops focusing on student content needs will be offered consistently during the semester. These workshops will be primarily group work experiences.

- ✓ The setting is highly interactive. Students are encouraged to discuss solutions to homework problems, ask questions, and explore ideas.
- ✓ The setting is highly structured. Mandatory student deadlines are in place for all work, starting from learning the initial content to the unit test dates. Attendance is a required and graded portion of the course.
- ✓ The course structure allows students to complete more material, more quickly, and possibly at a reduced cost. Students can self-accelerate through the developmental sequence.

### **How does a student fail one of these courses?**

A student can fail one of these courses due to lack of attendance, not completing all the required modules, or not mastering all of the modules.

### **Will students complete all their homework in the classroom lab?**

Possibly, this depends on the student. A student can complete homework outside of class wherever the student has access to a computer.

### **Can students get additional assistance outside of class time?**

There will be times that the labs are open with instructor support available. The times will be announced in class and available online to the students.

**Will students be able to access all/any of the course material outside of the classroom?**

All of the course materials are available outside of the classroom except for the tests and final exam.

**Student Cost**

**What is the cost to the student for these courses?**

The students will pay tuition for each developmental class that they take. For the first developmental class that they take in the sequence, they will purchase MyMathLab software. This software will cover the entire sequence of courses.

**Is it true that there is only one software cost for the entire sequence?**

Yes.

**Does this mean that the student only needs to purchase the software once for the entire Math 00/094/098 sequence?**

Yes, as long as they complete the sequence in a timely manner. The software cost covers the life of the edition. If they do not complete the sequence during this time (probably within two years at a minimum), they may need to purchase the MyMathLab software again.

**Is it true that students save money by taking these courses?**

Students placing in Math 090 or Math 094 will save money on materials (books or software) by enrolling and continuing in the pilot courses. The MyMathLab software that the student purchases lasts through the lifetime of the textbook edition. If the student works consistently through the developmental sequence, they would have only one software cost (approximately \$100.) Students placing in Math 098 would save a relatively small amount of money in comparison.

**How much could a student save by taking a pilot course rather than a traditional one?**

This depends on the type of course that the student would opt for instead. If a student is required to use MyMathLab in their course (and many of the Math 090, 094, and 098 courses have this requirement.) The textbook cost for Math 090 alone ranges between \$81 (used) to \$125 (new). This is not accounting for any of the other textbooks for the other classes or the approximate \$80 cost for MyMathLab each semester. Also, the student could complete the entire Math 090/094/098 sequence in two semesters instead of three. This could save the student over \$500.

**Software/Written Materials**

**Are there any textbooks for this course? If so, how much do they cost?**

Math 090 students will have a workbook that they can use outside of class for additional practice. This workbook may also be used in the optional instructor study groups that occur outside of class time. This workbook comes bundled with the MyMathLab software that will last the lifetime of the textbook edition that underlies the course. The approximate \$100 MyMathLab cost includes this workbook for the Math 090 students.

**Does this mean that there will be different items purchased depending on the student course placement?**

Yes, this is true. The Math 090 students will purchase a bundled workbook/MyMathLab software. The Math 094 and 098 students will purchase the MyMathLab software alone. Once the students have purchased the required materials for the developmental sequence the first time, they should not need to ever purchase software or workbooks again (as long as they continue in sequence in a timely manner.)

**Spring 2011 Courses**

8:00 am - 9:30 am	MW	Math 090	Cathy Windle	Sam Kongpricha
10:00 am - 11:40	MW	Math 098	Jean McArthur (400)	Mike Sullivan (401)
12:00 pm - 2:20 pm	MW	Math 094	Jean McArthur (402)	Mike Sullivan (403)
3:00 pm - 5:50 pm	M	Math 090	Faye Dang	Cathy Windle
9:00 am - 11:20 am	TR	Math 094	Celeste Cooper (400)	Rich Buttenhoff (401)
11:30 am - 1:10 pm	TR	Math 098	Celeste Cooper (402)	Rich Buttenhoff (403)
7:00 pm - 9:30 pm	TR	Math 094	Laura Egner	Scott Superczynski
6:00 pm - 9:30 pm	R	Math 098	Laura Egner	Kristy Hunter

**Student Progression through Coursework (Students can self-accelerate.)**

**Has the length of the Math 090/094/098 developmental sequence changed?**

Yes and no. The students could pace themselves at the current rate and complete the sequence in three semesters. The students could self-accelerate and complete the sequence in less than three semesters.

**How long does a student have to complete these courses?**

During the first semester of the pilot, the student must cover the material for the course in which the student enrolled. After the first semester, the student will be required to complete a given number of modules that relates to the credit hours of the course.

**What does the term “self-accelerate” mean?**

This is best explained by an example.

A student enrolls in the Math 090 pilot course. She completes the Math 090 material in nine weeks. The student then starts the Math 094 material and works through part of the content during the remaining seven weeks.

The student has self-accelerated. She will start the next semester in Math 094. She will continue where she left off in the material previously.

**How quickly could a student get through all three courses?**

It is possible that a student could finish all three courses in one semester. (Although, this would be unlikely due to the number of homework, quizzes, and tests needed for completion.

### Miscellaneous Questions

**If a student places into Math 094 or Math 098, do they have the option to start in Math 090 or are they required to start where they place?**

Yes, the student has the option to start at an earlier course in the developmental sequence.

**As students advance, when and how do they enroll & pay for the next course?**

Students pay for the course the next semester that they enroll for one of the developmental math classes.

**Does this mean if a student starts Math 094 mid-semester after completing the Math 090 content, the student does not pay any additional cost?**

Yes.

**For instance, if a student finishes Math 094 in mid or late April, will that student be allowed to continue on into Math 098 immediately?**

Yes.

**Will that student be allowed to continue in Math 098 when the Summer semester begins?**

Yes. The student will already have done some of the material. Since the Summer semester classes do not take place in this format, the student may find content repetition. However, since the Summer sessions are accelerated, this will probably be a benefit to the student.

**If a student fails any course, can they retake the course? How many attempts do students get to pass a course?**

Course retakes follows the standards set for the other math classes. Currently, there is no limit to the number of attempts a student gets to pass the class. If this changes for the other developmental math classes, the changes will also affect the pilot classes.

**How exactly will these courses work in tandem with traditional options?**

The Math 090, Math 094, and Math 098 content are designed so that students can go into a traditional class seamlessly. If anything, the pilot students may be ahead of the material in the traditional classes.

**Will students have a cut-off date to advance to a second class?**

These classes are not self-paced. The student must complete the course content by the end of the semester. If they do not, they will not pass the class.

**Scenario. Student completes all but one module and does not pass the class. What happens the following semester?**

The student starts where they left off. The student must complete the module. Also, the student is required complete the number of modules necessary for the credit hours of the class.

**Will a student wanting to take a second math course in the same semester need to register for that course or can the student jump straight in?**

The students can start immediately into the Math 094/098 content.

**Will a student need to pay for the second math class in the same semester?**

No.

**Can a student retake a math class in the same semester that he or she did not earn a ‘C’ or better in that class?**

This is impossible. A student must master the material in the course as they go along. They could not finish the course without having achieved a “C” or better.

**If a part-time student completes a second math course in one semester, can that student then qualify for full-time financial aid?**

No.

**I assume that students will not be able to switch to these pilot classes from any other campus.**

This is true.

**Likewise, will students not be able to switch to traditional classes from the pilot classes?**

Students will be allowed to switch to traditional classes from the pilot classes with the consent of the Math department chair, Jean McArthur.

**Will students be able to switch from one pilot section to another pilot section?**

If there is room and the Math department chair, Jean McArthur, gives consent.

**What instructor signatures will a pilot student need to switch pilot sections?**

The student will need the signature of the instructor listed on the schedule and the signature of the instructor listed on the section transferred into.

**What happens if the pilot does not become the new curriculum? What will happen with those students that are partway through?**

The Math department will ensure all the students who start the Math Redesign Project can continue the sequence until completion.

**I have more questions. Who do I contact?**

Heidi Munsey (counselor at Romeoville campus) can address advising and counseling concerns. She will also have up-to-date information about the pilot itself. E-mail her at [hmunsey@jjc.edu](mailto:hmunsey@jjc.edu) or call her at 815-729-9020 x7705