



Ivy Tech Community College

Tom Darling, Executive Director

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The OAR courseware is customized to the needs and requirements of the OAR program. Of special interest to Ivy Tech were the reporting features of the MyLab programs. Sufficient data is required to measure the success and impact of the program and these instructional technologies provide a myriad of data about student performance and behavior in an online environment.

Ivy Tech Community College is the nation's largest statewide community college with single accreditation, and Indiana's largest public postsecondary institution. More than 120,000 students a year receive affordable, transferable credits and personal attention close to home on the college's 23 campuses throughout the state.

To ensure appropriate course placement, incoming Ivy Tech students are assessed in the areas of reading, writing, and math. As a result, many learn that they need to take required developmental education programs before they can begin traditional college-level courses. Typical developmental education courses can take as long as 16 weeks to complete. Personal circumstances, including work and family, can prevent students from devoting the time necessary to complete these courses—and this can delay obtaining a degree, or worse, prevent students from choosing to enroll at all.

The staff at Ivy Tech realized that many students possess most of the English or math skills necessary to succeed in college-level courses and need only a refresher course—a way to fill in the gaps in their knowledge without committing to a full-term course.

In the summer of 2006, Ivy Tech's Sharon Bone, dean of Academic Advancement, and Tom Darling, executive director of Workforce, Economic, and Community Development, met with Pearson representatives. Bone and Darling described their vision for bridging their students' knowledge gaps: a four- to twelve-week, self-paced remediation program that would prepare students to pass English and math placement tests, enable them to avoid lengthy remediation courses, and move them directly into college-level course work. They explored Pearson's wealth of instructional materials and tools, Pearson Learning Solution's online-course-building capabilities, and the company's experience in instructional design and curriculum creation. They liked what they saw. An agreement was reached to develop the Online Accelerated Remediation (OAR) program.

Specifically designed to move a student quickly through remediation, the OAR program provides personalized staff support; an instructional program focused only on what the individual student must study to successfully complete the placement test; and concentrated, online tutorials tailored to meet each student's individual time and educational needs.

Pearson Learning Solutions used four proven instructional programs to create and customize the online courseware for Ivy Tech's OAR program. MyMathLab, MyReadingLab, and MyWritingLab each form the backbones of the instructional programs in their respective subject areas by providing diagnostic tests, personalized study plans, exercises, activities, and tutorial material to help students master these content areas. In addition, the OAR program uses online learning modules from CourseConnect, Pearson's state-of-the-art library of online courses, to provide guided instruction for major topic areas identified as weak spots.

Finally, Pearson Learning Solutions created a customized portal for Ivy Tech students. Through this single access point, students can learn about the OAR courseware, review technical requirements, and automatically check for required plug-ins.

Ivy Tech enrolled its first OAR students in May 2007. Since then, Pearson has continued to work with Ivy Tech to ensure that all its needs are met. Follow-up projects include designing a reporting process, training OAR tutors, and revising OAR software to ensure it continues to meet developing curriculum needs and provide increasingly effective learning experiences.