

# Quantitative Literacy from a Service Division Perspective

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# Davenport University

- *Private, non-profit university in Grand Rapids, Michigan, that prepares students for in-demand careers in business, technology and health professions.*
- *Specializes in undergraduate and graduate programs that prepare individuals for careers in business, technology and health professions.*
- *Provides business education on location, at off-campus sites, and through online programs.*
- *Offers educational programs and services designed to serve recent high-school graduates, adults, organizations and international students.*

# Background

- **History – Evolved from “Career Schools”**
- **New curriculum in 2003 (2 years of development)**
- **2005 opened new main campus with residence halls**
- **Retain “Practical, real world” focus**

# General Education

- **Service division – “Support the programs!”**
- **Several “Across the Curriculum” initiatives**
- **Common core of Gen-Ed classes that account for the vast majority of sections running**
- **Approach: Use to the context of the programs to motivate/support the content of our courses**

# How do partnerships arise?

- **Culture**
- **Assessment**
- **Accreditation**
- **Frustration / Desperation**

# Examples – Accounting/Finance

- **2003 – Frustration / Desperation**
- **Students struggle with Rates/Ratios in Intro Accounting Course**
- **Students in Corporate Finance have “never seen” simple & compound interest formulas**
- **Disconnect in Language**
  - **Math Texts: Principal/Amount**
  - **Finance Texts: Present Value/Future Value**

# Examples - Nursing

- **2004 - Assessment/Accreditation**
- **Eliminate 1 Cr Math for Health Care Providers**
- **“Dosage & Solution” Across the Curriculum**
- **Integrate into developmental math courses, College Mathematics course, and nursing courses.**
- **Unify approach to dosage & solution problems**

# Examples – Social Science

- **200? – Culture**
- **Began as “guest lectures” in our introductory social science courses (Diversity, Sociology, Psychology)**
- **In 2007, collaboration with a Stroop test in an Introduction to Psychology course**



# Implementation

- **Develop handouts with/for faculty**
  - Use “program” course texts for formulas and examples
  - Self-contained so faculty need not be a content expert in every field
- **Recommendation to Instructors (RTI)**
  - Discuss the “flavor” of the course
  - Discuss motivation for material/approach