

# RESEARCH BRIEF

## INSTITUTIONAL AND PROGRAM PLANNING

VOLUME 4

NUMBER 2

JANUARY 1995

### REPORT ABOUT CLAST REVIEW COURSES

At St. Petersburg Junior College (SPJC) students may enroll, but are not required to do so, in CLAST Review courses designed to assist them prepare for the CLAST. The courses carry zero (0) credits and have no fees associated with them. This study was undertaken to answer the following questions:

1. How useful do students feel the review courses were in their overall preparation for the CLAST?
2. Would students be willing to pay to participate in CLAST Review courses?
3. What is the status of CLAST Review courses at the other Florida public community colleges?

In order to answer the first two questions, students enrolled in CLAST review classes in the Fall 1994 were asked to complete a twelve (12) question survey about CLAST Review courses during the last class meeting of each subject area class. Students taking more than one review course were asked to complete the survey for each course taken. These students would take the October 1994 CLAST. To obtain information from the Florida community colleges a six (6) item survey was sent to the reports coordinators asking about CLAST Review courses offered at their institutions.

On the Clearwater campus there were 183 enrollments in CLAST Review courses compared to 64 survey responses for a return rate of 35.0%. On the St. Petersburg/Gibbs campus these numbers were 154 enrollments compared to 106 responses and a return rate of 68.8%. Collegewide there were a total of 337 enrollments, 170 survey responses, and a return rate of 50.4%. By subject area, the return rates (returns compared to enrollments) were 34.5% for English; 20.2% for reading; and 95.5% for mathematics. The table shows the results of the student survey.

Students were asked about their preparation for the CLAST in terms of completing requirements and attendance in review courses. The majority of respondents had completed all required English and mathematics courses for the A.A. degree. By subject area, the percentages completing their requirements were 81.6% for English, 76.5% for reading, and 74.6% for mathematics. Also, the majority of respondents were taking a CLAST Review course for the first time (English, 79.5%; reading, 82.4%; mathematics, 87.7%).

More than one-half of the students felt that the review courses were excellent (English, 64.1%; reading, 58.8%; mathematics, 56.3%), that all the skills they felt they needed help with for the CLAST were reviewed in the courses (English, 51.3%; reading, 52.9%; mathematics, 51.8%) and that those skills were very well reviewed in a manner that they could easily understand (English, 64.1%; reading, 52.9%; mathematics, 55.8%). They felt they knew more of the materials/skills than they did prior to participating in the courses. Students were split in their opinion when asked if they would have enrolled if a fee had been charged, but at the end of the course participation students felt that a student would be willing to pay about \$1 - \$10 to participate in future English and mathematics CLAST Review courses.

In order to learn the status of CLAST Review courses at the other public community colleges reports coordinators were surveyed. Twenty-three (23) of the community colleges (including SPJC) responded to the survey for a response rate of 82.1%. Of those institutions, twenty-one (21) offer CLAST Review courses, two (2) do not. At most colleges participation in CLAST Review courses is not required of

students (required only if failed to pass CLAST subtest, 6 of 21; not required of any students, 12 of 21; other basis for participation, 3 of 21). When a student enrolls, however, at most colleges they are charged (15 of 21) and that charge is at the same rate as a college credit or college preparatory course (11 of 15).

### RESULTS OF STUDENT SURVEY

	English		Reading		Mathematics	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>STUDENT PREPARATION FOR CLAST TEST</b>						
Completed course requirements for A.A.?						
Completed all	27	71.1%	9	52.9%	82	71.9%
Completed math but not English	6	15.8%	3	17.7%	3	2.6%
Completed English but not math	4	10.5%	4	23.5%	25	21.9%
Completed neither English nor math	1	2.6%	1	5.9%	4	3.5%
First time in CLAST review course						
Yes	31	79.5%	14	82.4%	100	87.7%
No	8	20.5%	3	17.6%	14	12.3%
First time taking CLAST test in subject						
Yes	19	48.7%	10	58.8%	76	66.7%
No	20	51.3%	7	41.2%	38	33.3%
<b>STUDENT OPINION ABOUT CLAST REVIEW COURSES</b>						
Extent course covered skills in which student needed help						
All	20	51.3%	9	52.9%	59	51.8%
Some	16	41.0%	7	41.2%	52	45.6%
Little	3	7.7%	1	5.9%	3	2.6%
None	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
How well course reviewed material/skills						
Very well - could easily understand all	25	64.1%	9	52.9%	63	55.8%
Somewhat well - could easily understand most	13	33.3%	6	35.3%	50	44.2%
Not very well - could easily understand very little	1	2.6%	2	11.8%	0	0.0%
Not at all well - could not easily understand any	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
How well material/skills reviewed now is understood						
Very well-feel confident	15	38.5%	4	23.5%	27	23.7%
Somewhat better-know more than before	24	61.5%	13	76.5%	86	75.4%
No different-doubt know any more than before	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.9%
Feelings about review course						
Excellent and does not need improvement	25	64.1%	10	58.8%	63	56.3%
Good but could be improved	14	35.9%	7	41.2%	49	43.7%
Waste of time and should be eliminated	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
<b>WILLINGNESS TO PAY FOR CLAST REVIEW COURSES</b>						
Would you have enrolled if a fee had been charged?						
Yes	19	48.7%	9	52.9%	56	49.6%
No	20	51.3%	8	47.1%	57	50.4%
Based on your experience, how much do you think students would be willing to pay in the future?						
\$0	18	46.2%	11	64.7%	44	38.9%
\$1-10	13	33.3%	6	35.3%	51	45.1%
\$11-20	7	17.9%	0	0.0%	15	13.3%
\$21-30	1	2.6%	0	0.0%	3	2.7%

For a copy of the complete report please contact Dr. Susanne Fischer at extension 3374.