Student Readiness for Online Courses at MSJC

Whereas, The Academic Senate of California Community Colleges recognizes in Resolution 09.03 from Spring 2013 that "Student success in an online course depends not only on mastering the course content but also on a student's ability to navigate within the online environment and manage the unique aspects of an online class or section including specific technological skills and higher reading aptitudes;" and

Whereas, Resolution 09.03 from Spring 2013 also states that "Section 55200 of Title 5 describes specific characteristics of distance education and online instruction but does not permit colleges to implement a condition of enrollment to ensure students are prepared to succeed in the online environment;" and

Whereas, Mt. San Jacinto College's Educational Master Plan for 2016-2023 notes that "The percentage of distance education/hybrid offerings has increased from 11% to 21% with face-to-face enrollment growth remaining relatively flat over the past ten years (2005-2015)…Approximately 35% of Mt. San Jacinto College students are enrolled in at least one distance education/hybrid course;" and

Whereas, Mt. San Jacinto Educational College's Master Plan for 2016-2023 also notes that "Over three academic years (2011-14), average overall success rates in distance education/hybrid courses are consistently lower at 63% than the more traditional instructional face-to-face modality 70%...Additionally, withdrawal rates are extremely high in the online education environment, with students withdrawing at a rate of 13%. This withdrawal phenomenon, impacts students, in lengthening their time-to-completion;" and

Whereas, A series of student characteristics and factors, such as academic preparedness, familiarity with subject matter, technological skills, motivation levels, learning styles, time management, and self-efficacy influence student success and retention in online courses; and

Whereas, Most student characteristics and factors predominantly reside outside the influence of faculty driven course design and effective instructional practices; and

Whereas, the Online Education Initiative has designed a series of interactive multimedia "Student Readiness Tutorials" for the California Community College System at no-cost to institutions to promote student success;

Resolved, Mt. San Jacinto College's Academic Senate recommends the incorporation of the Online Education Initiative's "Student Readiness Tutorials" into student orientations to promote student awareness of personal learning styles and the expectations of motivational levels and student skills necessary for success within online courses.

Resolved, Mt. San Jacinto College's Academic Senate recommends that online instructors utilize the Online Education Initiative's "Student Readiness Tutorials" with check-in processes or during the first week of instruction for distance education courses to address student characteristics and factors impacting student success and retention that are outside the influence of course design and the adoption of effective instructional practices.

Adopted: April 11, 2017