



# Alternatives to Traditional Intermediate Algebra and Freshman Composition

**Michelle Grimes-Hillman, ASCCC South Representative**

# Background

- Title 5 Regulations on minimum English and mathematics requirements for the awarding of the Associate Degree (January 2005)
- Colleges should develop alternative courses at the new required level
- In mathematics appropriate alternative courses might be a liberal arts mathematics course at the intermediate algebra level or a course oriented to a specific vocational area that incorporates suitable selections of algebra, geometry, trigonometry and statistics.
- In English an appropriate alternative course might be a technical writing type composition course targeted at specific vocational areas. Students intending to transfer would continue to take the traditional courses, but other students might find the alternatives better suited to their fields of study for the associate degree.

# UC and CSU GE Policy

- Exploration of alternatives is effectively blocked
- CSU policy (CSU Executive Order 1033) states that all mathematics courses in the quantitative reasoning general education pattern must have an explicit Intermediate Algebra prerequisite
- UC requires that all transfer level mathematics courses have Intermediate Algebra or equivalent as the prerequisite to the transfer level course (UC Transfer Course Agreement 2012)

# Questions for Curriculum Chairs

- What alternative curriculum pathways have you developed to meet CTE or other local needs?
- What coursework (outside the math and English disciplines) does the local colleges accept as equivalent to Intermediate Algebra or Freshman Composition?
- Has any local college been successful to get 4-year universities to accept alternative curriculum pathways as equivalent to Intermediate Algebra to the transfer level course?

# What's next?

Local Conversations – C-ID role, disciplines cross-talk  
Conversations with Intersegmental Committee of the Academic Senates (ICAS) to determine if alternatives (offered inside and outside the math and English departments) can be considered equivalent to Intermediate Algebra or Freshman Composition for non-STEM majors

Document local college activities in providing non traditional alternatives for non STEM students in English and mathematics

# References

- Consultation Digest, CCCCO, January 2005
- [Policy Issues Regarding Alternative Developmental-to-Transfer-level Mathematics Pathways \(Rostrum. Smith, B. and Smith, P. December 2012\)](#)
- [Alternatives to Traditional Intermediate Algebra \(Rostrum. Walton, I., June 2013\)](#)

# Questions?

