



## South Carolina Course Alignment Project Enters Phase II

The South Carolina Course Alignment Project (SC CAP) is now in Phase II of the project: pilot implementation. During this phase, paired courses in English, math, and science are being taught in 32 classrooms across the state. The paired courses consist of a secondary course matched or "paired" with a postsecondary one (pairings are shown below). These paired courses were developed by 15 high school and college faculty members from across South Carolina who were selected as design team members because of their in-depth knowledge in each academic field, their representation of the different types of educational institutions in South Carolina, and their experience teaching in more than one type of educational institution. The five design teams (English, math, chemistry, biology, and physics) produced a total of 17 courses designed to help facilitate the seamless transition of students from exit-level high school courses to entry-level college courses in the same curricular areas. Each course is also aligned to the South Carolina College Readiness Reference standards (see [www.che.sc.gov/AcademicAffairs/EEDA/SC\\_College\\_Readiness\\_Standards.pdf](http://www.che.sc.gov/AcademicAffairs/EEDA/SC_College_Readiness_Standards.pdf)).

### In This Issue

South Carolina Course Alignment Project Enters Phase II	1
Course Packets Created	2
Pilot Implementation	2
Feedback from High School Students	2
Pilot Implementers	3
Highlights from Pilot Implementer Discussions	4
Did You Know?	4

### Paired English Language Arts Courses

#### High School Courses

English 3 (American Literature/Composition)  
 English 4 (British Literature/Composition)

### Paired Science Courses

#### High School Courses

Biology  
 Chemistry  
 Physics

### Paired Mathematics Courses

#### High School Courses

Pre-Calculus  
 Math Tech 4

### College/University Courses

American Literature  
 British Literature  
 English Composition

### College/University Courses

Biological Sciences I  
 College Chemistry I  
 University Physics (Algebra-based)  
 University Physics (Calculus-based)

### College/University Courses

Elementary Calculus  
 College Algebra  
 Probability and Statistics



### Course Packets Created

For each paired course developed, the design teams created course packets that include the following:

- Introduction for Administrator
- Introduction for Instructor
- Course Syllabus
- Alignment to SC State Standards
- Alignment to SC College Readiness Standards
- Elements of Paired Course Alignment
- Letter to High School Students and Their Parents
- Lab/Classroom Activities
- Out of Class Assignments
- Assessments and Scoring Rubrics
- List of Recommended Readings, Resources, and Websites

### Pilot Implementation

Pilot Implementers in both secondary and postsecondary institutions are using materials developed by the SC CAP Course Design Team members in their classrooms during the 2009-2010 academic year and are providing feedback on ways to improve the paired courses. Pilot Implementers are grouped with each other geographically according to type of institution to facilitate collaboration among Implementers. All groups contain at least one high school and one institution of higher education and some include more than one institution of higher education. To prepare for the implementation phase, Pilot Implementers attended one training session on August 5, 2009, which focused on using the course packets. The session also provided opportunities to discuss course alignment issues with fellow Implementers and prepared Implementers for teaching the paired courses during the 2009-2010 school year. Another training session was held on September 12, 2009, and focused on how Implementers had begun to adapt course materials to fit their individual classes. Implementers shared strategies for using the course materials, and experts from the Educational Policy Improvement Center (EPIC) explained some of the ways they can learn from each other and share resources across institutional lines.

#### Current Feedback from High School Students

"I didn't believe what I had heard about how responsible you had to be in college. I now realize that what I have heard is true."

"I feel more comfortable knowing that I am more informed as I prepare for college. Professor X's presentation reinforced the fact that college will be challenging, but with hard work and dedication, it is definitely within my reach."

"One noticeable difference between college and high school is that the students are held more accountable for their own success. Professor X stressed the importance of working diligently, class attendance, and making sure work is turned in on time."

- Quotes from Three Public School Students Currently Enrolled in Pilot Paired Courses (In Response to a Classroom Visit from a Higher Education Pilot Implementer)



Pilot Implementers

The Commission on Higher Education staff join EPIC staff members and institutional administrators in congratulating and thanking the following outstanding educators for their invaluable contributions and dedication to this phase of the project:

English

Table with 3 columns: Name, Institution, and Course. Lists English teachers and their respective schools and courses.

Science

Table with 3 columns: Name, Institution, and Course. Lists Science teachers and their respective schools and courses.

Mathematics

Table with 3 columns: Name, Institution, and Course. Lists Mathematics teachers and their respective schools and courses.



## Highlights of the Pilot Implementation Phase

Paired course pilot implementation has resulted in some interesting activities and discussions:

- Higher education Implementers have visited the classrooms of their partner high school Implementers to speak with high school students about college expectations;
- Implementers have engaged in philosophical debates about the best ways to approach teaching particular topics and in what order;
- Implementers have created opportunities for professional development with colleagues at other institutions to brainstorm and engage in problem solving. For example, they have scheduled professional development activities open to all faculty from their respective departments at their institutions; and
- Implementers have shared equipment between institutions.

## Did You Know?

One of the most exciting results of the South Carolina Course Alignment Project to date has been increased collaboration and dialogue among secondary and postsecondary educators in the state.

For more information about the project, please visit [www.epiconline.org/south\\_carolina](http://www.epiconline.org/south_carolina).

### South Carolina Commission on Higher Education Contact Us

[www.che.sc.gov](http://www.che.sc.gov)

Ms. Trena Houp, Program Manager  
Division of Academic Affairs and Licensing  
Commission on Higher Education  
[thoup@che.sc.gov](mailto:thoup@che.sc.gov)  
803.737.4853

Mr. Clint Mullins, Program Manager  
Division of Academic Affairs and Licensing  
Commission on Higher Education  
[cmullins@che.sc.gov](mailto:cmullins@che.sc.gov)  
803.737.0141