

1067-Z1-2351 **Robert Wieman*** (rwieman@vsu.edu), Department of Mathematics & Computer Science, P. O. Box 9068, Virginia State University, Petersburg, VA 23806. *Initial Assessment of an Enhanced College Algebra Course*. Preliminary report.

College Algebra is a problematic course at many universities, and Virginia State is no different. Our department has tried several directions, but passing rates have stubbornly remained below 50 percent each semester.

This Fall, we have introduced a weekly two-hour "Active Learning Environment" (ALE) session in addition to the three hours of lecture. The ALE session consists of a group activity, followed by individualized work in the form of self-paced computer exercises.

Approximately half of incoming freshmen in the School of Engineering, Science, and Technology were placed in Enhanced College Algebra with the ALE session (based on high school transcripts, SAT Math scores, and placement test results). The other incoming students were placed in conventional College Algebra sections. In this setting, we are able to assess the effect of our enhancements through several measures, including student affect and attitude as well as quantitative outcomes.

I present the results of this first semester, and the consequences of those results on our plans for the future of College Algebra at VSU. (Received September 22, 2010)