

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Humber College implements OCMT
- Ontario Centres of Excellence fund project to implement OCMT in the TCDSB
- OCMT launches its new website.

Humber College Launches OCMT

In 2015, the College Student Achievement Project (CSAP) team submitted the [final research report](#) on the exceptional collaboration that resulted in the development and field testing of the new *Assessment for Learning* resource for mathematics known as the Ontario College Math Test (OCMT).

Humber College was identified as the lead institution for the implementation of the OCMT and Vretta Inc. was selected as the technology partner.

The implementation process of this new, post-admission placement test, required that it be validated against existing post-admission testing practices.

From January 2016 to September 2016, almost 1500 students completed the OCMT providing a robust data set that enabled the

implementation team to develop appropriate placement scores to stream first semester students in business, technology, and liberal arts, into the appropriate first semester math course that matches their skill set.

Effective January 2017, the college has fully adopted the OCMT for its post-admission placement testing and discussions are now underway regarding expanding its use to admissions testing.

While initial feedback from faculty indicates that the OCMT has accurately placed students into their first semester math class, there is still research that needs to be conducted regarding its validity, more specifically, assessing how OCMT scores correlate with other theoretically similar constructs such as final course grades.



If you are interested in learning more about the implementation of the OCMT at Humber College, their new placement scores, and the courses into which students can be streamed, feel free to contact Mona Nouroozifar, Associate Dean, Mathematics and Research Skills Analysis, Humber College at mona.nouroozifar@humber.ca.

Results of the benchmarking phase of the OCMT implementation at Humber College were shared at the 2016 OCMA Conference.

[View PPT Presentation](#)

Attend the 37th Annual OCMA Conference on May 24, 2017 to get further updates on the OCMT.

[View Conference Program](#)

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Toronto Catholic District School Board Pilots OCMT

In August 2016, the Ontario Centres of Excellence approved funding of a project that, over the course of two years, would see the OCMT implemented across all of the Grade 9 Applied Mathematics classes in the Toronto Catholic District School Board.

The project's primary focus is to increase student achievement in mathematics by providing students with access both to the diagnostic assessments available

within the OCMT and access to digitally rich, online resources that support increased numeracy in 9 foundational topics that range from basic arithmetic to basic algebra.

Of additional interest is the fact that the project also includes a more significant research component that will correlate OCMT achievement data with student achievement data in Grade 9 Applied Mathematics and EQAO achievement and confidence scores.



Ontario Centres of Excellence
Where Next Happens

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Research Spotlight:

“Implementing Technologies in Mathematics Classrooms in Ontario Colleges”

Although integrating technology into the classroom can derive a variety of challenges, some educators believe that using technology while teaching college mathematics creates opportunities for enhancing students' learning through active engagement with ideas. Currently, it is unclear how widely technology has been implemented in mathematics in engineering or business programs in Ontario colleges. Dr. Christine Tsou, Michelle Bondy and Dr. Andrea Belanger from St. Clair College are proposing to address this issue through an examination of the ways in which technology is being integrated in mathematics

classrooms in business and engineering programs. However, their research project is not limited solely to an examination of the technology being used to enhance the learning. It also focuses on the technology necessary for the learning. By surveying both mathematics instructors and administrators, the project will offer a better understanding of the current available resources and the required supports to successfully teach mathematics in these program areas. In addition, the research findings may support the development of more applied learning opportunities in mathematics, which may be

incorporated into multimedia, interactive models, sophisticated simulations systems, and practical tutoring and homework systems. Ultimately, this research hopes to highlight the challenges and opportunities for integrating technology in mathematics for the educational community at large.

Meet the Research Team

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“The Math Head Start program allows students to practice and review the mathematics and statistics skills needed to be successful at Humber.”

Cameron Redsell-Montgomerie,
Coordinator, Humber Math
Centre

If you judge the popularity of a course by the number of registrants, then the online math Head Start program is an unqualified success. With over 15,000 registrants, it is the largest “course” at Humber college.

However, it really isn't a course but a community site that supports numeracy throughout a student's life at Humber. Once a student completes their post-admission placement testing at Humber, they are automatically registered into this “Head Start” program that offers students the opportunity to continue to build their math skills by accessing a variety of online modules that contain various learning

materials, examples and exercises to help students practice mathematics. A skills quiz allows students to easily identify where they need to focus some attention and the modules that can help them to increase their level of proficiency in mathematics.

With the capacity to provide students with access to diagnostic assessments and remedial modules, the OCMT can also be customized to also function as a Head Start program at your institution.

If you are interested in learning more about Head Start, please email:

mathcentre@humber.ca.



OCMT: Key Features

Assessment Framework

The OCMT Assessment Framework is comprised of two equally important dimensions that form the basis for the test item validity analysis: content topics and performance expectations. The former includes 9 key foundational topics: whole numbers, arithmetic, integers, decimals, fractions, ratios and proportions, percents, basic algebra, and measurement. The latter corresponds to the broader goals of mathematics teaching and learning: knowing, applying and reasoning.

Assessment Items

Assessment items are both constructed response and selected response and are available in both the English and French languages. Extensive field trials and psychometric analysis ensure that the highest quality standards are met.

Test Designs

Each test is unique for every test taker, and equally representative of both the content and performance expectation dimensions of the assessment framework. Tests are long enough to enable reliable assessment of test takers' abilities but short enough to complete in a reasonable length of time.

Remedial Modules

After completing a diagnostic assessment, students have access to mastery-based, online learning resources, developed using state-of-the-art, award-winning interactive pedagogies that have proven to help students master core concepts in mathematics through an engaging learning experience.

Download the OCMT Brochure



OCMT: Try a Demo or Schedule a Meeting

TRY A DEMO

If you would like to experience the OCMT, click on the button below to access the website that contains the demo.



SCHEDULE A MEETING

If you would like one of our OCMT learning specialists to arrange for a demonstration at your college or school, email us at support@theocmt.org with your request. You can also download, complete, and submit your Expression of Interest to use the OCMT.

Download the Expression of Interest





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OCMT Steering Committee

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Emily Brown: OCMC
Jolene Ciccarella: K-12
Cheryl Costigan: K-12
Anand Karat: Technology Partner

Upcoming Conferences and Forums

Colleges and Institutes Canada (CICan) 2017

April 30 to May 2, 2017
Ottawa, Ontario
[Website](#)

Ontario Association of Math Educators (OAME) 2017

May 11 to May 13, 2017
Kingston, Ontario
[Website](#)

Ontario Colleges Math Association (OCMA) 2017

May 24 to May 26, 2017
Orillia, Ontario
[Website](#)

American Mathematical Association of Two Year Colleges (AMATYC) 2017

November 9 to November 12, 2017
San Diego, California
[Website](#)

Fields Institute for Research in Mathematical Sciences

MathEd Forums
[Website](#)



**Focus on practice, pedagogy
and student success.**