



# Building a Bridge to College English

Project Lead: Professor Steve Raynie, Ph.D.

sraynie@gordonstate.edu 678.359.5282

## Project Objectives

Align Gordon State College's composition course sequence with the Common Core Georgia Performance Standards

Demonstrate the effectiveness of collaborating with a general education class at a local high school

Use the experience of working with the high school class to help students make a smoother transition to college

## Project Synopsis

A group of Gordon State English faculty developed new composition courses objectives that align with the Common Core Georgia Performance Standards, and those new objectives were implemented. The group developed and taught three unit plans designed to help high school students make a successful transition to college-level work.

## Project Impact on Completion

- College students demonstrated better composition course pass rates.
- High school students demonstrated better college readiness: 21/28 were college ready at the end of the project versus 3/28 at the beginning of the project.
- High school students reported that they:
  - Understood better what reading and writing skills would be expected of them in college;
  - Improved their confidence in their ability to be successful in college-level writing assignments;
  - Increased their ability to read and understand both visual and verbal texts.

## Key Findings

Students better prepared for college-level reading and writing

Students more confident in their ability to produce college-level work

Better composition course pass rates at Gordon State College

## Data

Writing Course A, B, C Pass Rate	Fall 2012	Spring 2013	Fall 2013	Spring 2014
ENGL 1101	65.0%	48.8%	69.3%	57.5%
ENGL 1102	58.3%	60.6%	57.9%	68.0%

## Conclusion

Students in a general education English/ Language Arts class at Lamar County High School demonstrated increased confidence in their ability to succeed in college-level English courses. Typically 28% of high school graduates from Title I rural districts attend a four-year school; following our work, 60% of the Lamar County High School Class indicated that they intended to attend a four-year school like Gordon State College. The alignment of Gordon State College's composition course objectives with the Common Core Georgia Performance Standards improved the ABC pass rates in those classes.

