

Participant Questions	Topic	Answers from Laura Kalbaugh on the NC Team
What does RISE stand for?	RISE	RISE stands for Reinforced Instruction for Student Excellence
Is this project funded with grant money?	RISE	We have had some grant money provided through the NC Student Success Center but much of this work has been by college faculty who volunteer their time.
Where is the RISE 101 orientation course for educators located?	RISE	We have a Google drive that gives the instructions on how to access that course. You can find that information here https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1KQRf35ytmgVL537qomnS57cvkubyXmoL and look for the RISE 101 folder
Our Gateway course enrollment as a pilot site was up almost 8 percent with RISE	RISE	Excellent for these times. That's great. I think the growth we had in Fall 2019 at Wake Tech, our first semester, was due to RISE, too.
Do you proctor the RISE (EdReady) placement test?	Placement	We used to, but the move to remote learning has changed the proctoring policy across the state. Colleges are still able to proctor if they think it is important. A final decision about this change will be made and communicated to colleges at a later date.
How did you proctor the placement exam?	Placement	This varies by the college, too. Sometimes they use Blackboard Collaborate, Proctor U, etc. Of course, if the course is face to face, it is proctored in class. And, final exams are really our tier tests.
There seems to be some program variations. Can you clarify the statewide expectations for RISE as a placement model?	Placement	A score of 70 on the RISE placement test is official at all colleges in September 2020. Some colleges have opted to implement sooner. Official memos sent to colleges about BLET and EMS placement, which don't use the RISE test; TABE and CASAS are approved for those programs. Please email us with additional questions.
Is every student required to take Placement Test? How does GPA factor into the Placement Test Results?	Placement	Almost no students take the placement test! There are multiple ways for students to be placed in gateway courses. We look at GPA first and place the student using the ranges mentioned. If there is another placement criteria that would place the student higher, then we use it. For instance, if a student has a 2.5 GPA they can take any gateway with a coreq. But, if that student has an ACT score of 22 on the math portion of the test then they can take gateway math without a coreq but will need to still take English with a coreq based on the GPA placement.
Did you see differences in placement into college level courses for students of color with your use of EdReady for placement?	Placement	Very few students actually take the placement test and I have not looked at this. However, you will see later in the presentation that access equity is definitely impacted with the coreq model as many more underserved students are given the opportunity to take the gateway with a coreq as the result of our placement policies.
Is the student's straight GPA used, or is it only the GPA in Math, Science, English, Foreign Language, and Social Studies? If non-academic courses are considered, the data could be skewed.	Placement	Research has determined that the full GPA is the best predictor of success in college and using just math for math placement, etc. does not result in better placement. So, that is what we do.
How many questions are there on the placement test?	Placement	On average there are about 30 questions on each tier of the placement test. There are variations because there are a different number of learning outcomes covered on each test.
Do you take into consideration the GED Math score? Some community colleges accept a score of 165 to go to Math college to proceed to Math 65.	Placement	Using research from GED, we treat students who have at least 145-164 on all parts of the GED just like students who have a GPA of 2.2-2.799 so they can take gateway courses with a coreq. A GED score 165+ on all parts allows the students to take gateway courses without a required coreq.
Is there a time restriction for GPA? Meaning, if a student graduated 5/10/15 years ago, does the GPA still count?	Placement	Our official policy is that GPA will be used for placement for 10 years from graduation. With COVID, we've removed that limit and some colleges are using GPA "forever". We will determine what happens in the future after looking at data from this year's placement.
Approximately what % of incoming students place with HS GPA?	Placement	I don't know a precise number but it is large. Initially we have used GPA for students for 10 years after graduation. With COVID we've expanded that to anyone who can provide a high school GPA no matter how long they've been out of school.
If NC does not offer College Algebra, what is the highest math course in which a student can enroll?	Placement	We have 5 "gateway" math courses: tech math, a trig course that is non-transfer, quant lit, stats, and pre-calc algebra. Any of those can be taken without a coreq if the high school GPA is 2.8+
2.8 allows students into college algebra?	Placement	Actually, NC does not have College Algebra! However, an unweighted GPA of 2.8 does allow a student to take any gateway math without required remediation. This is an increase from our previous 2.6 target.
What is your gateway math class to get students to calculus? Would students with a 2.8 GPA be able to go directly into that?	Placement	Students have a variety of ways to place directly into calc but most have to complete two precalc courses. For RISE, 2.8 GPA will place the student into the first precalc course (Pre-Calc Algebra) without a required coreq. Those with a GPA of 2.2-2.799 can take that course with a coreq.

HS grade inflation seems to be an issue in my state, especially since COVID. Do you have plans to evaluate your 2.2/2.8 HS GPA criteria?	Placement	We will definitely look at our GPA ranges as we have more data available. Research does indicate that our concerns about grade inflation doesn't really impact the use of GPA as a predictor of student success in college. But, we will see!
How have you changed the culture of students/parents/counselors/etc. thinking that a single test will tell them something different? We use all the measures you do too, but students think that if HS GPA, ACT, and SAT scores don't place them, that the placement test will.	Placement	That is a difficult item to overcome. And not just with students but with advisors and other staff and faculty. We really just stick to our policy and don't allow placement testing unless the student qualifies for it.
You mention that Transition Courses have 6 contact hours. How many contact hours per course are required in a co-requisite class/regular class?	Transition and CoReq	See the slide for details. The number of contact hours varies based on the gateway class it is connected to. Tech math coreq has 2 contact hours up to precalc algebra coreq having 4 contact hours.
Did you develop the curriculum or are you using OER curriculum?	Transition and CoReq	NC has a Combined Course Library so we all use the same courses. The basic course description is common across all colleges and has been developed by the teams that Susan discussed earlier. Each college determines how the implementation looks at their college. Of course, the transition courses use NROC products so those are free to students.
How does EdReady (for Transition Math) determine a student has "mastered" a topic, i.e. Factoring?	Transition	In the EdReady Study Path individual learning outcomes can sometimes appear to be "mastered" with very few questions, but the adaptive system is more complex than that. Topics will reappear in a study path if the student later doesn't do well on a topic that has that learning objective as a building block.
How is it determined that a student is ready to move from a transition course to a college level course?	Transition	This is actually dependent upon the college level course that is required. The transition math course has 3 tiers and completion of the tiers translates to various gateway math placements. Tier 1, for instance allows the student to take tech math without a coreq or statistics or quant lit with a coreq.
I like Brigette's idea of using the same book for the gateway and co-requisite courses.	Co Requisite	Yes! We found that this was cost effective for students. This is also helpful if using any type of online homework platform as the students don't have to purchase a second access code for the co-req course.
So the coreq course is non credit?	Co Requisite	It is coded as a developmental level course and is not transferable but does count for full time enrollment. We did this so students could opt into the courses if they felt it would be a benefit.
Did one of the presenters say earlier that students can opt-in to the corequisite course even if it is not required?	Co Requisite	Yes, those courses are zero level courses and most all students can opt in. Veterans, unfortunately, would not have their VA benefits pay for the optional course, but for the most part all students can opt into dev courses.
Do math instructors teach the Coreq courses, or a "college success" instructor?	Co Requisite	All taught by math instructors but some may be dev math instructors.
Does the same instructor ever teach BOTH the gateway + coreq course pair? Or, does one instructor "specialize" in the coreq and another in the "gateway"?	Co Requisite	We have both models in the state and sometimes at the same college.
It sounds like you are talking about a learning community model. Have some of your colleges formalized their learning communities through this model?	Co Requisite	In some ways it is a learning community. I don't know of any colleges that have expanded that learning community model further as a result of RISE but they may have.
Are the gateway courses a mix of students only in gateway and some students in co-req?	Co Requisite	Whenever possible we have the gateway course be a mix of students who need the coreq and those who do not. Pedagogically this should be more effective to help lift the students who are less prepared.
A student can graduate with a 2.2+ GPA without mastering math throughout high school. Isn't placing these students in a coreq alongside more prepared students setting them up for frustration?	Co Requisite	I understand that point of view but national research does tell us that GPA is the best placement. We are looking at data to see if we need to adjust these ranges in the future. Also, how the coreqs are integrated with the math course is critical to success. Finally, advising is key. If this student has good advising they can opt into transition math to better prepare if that is appropriate for them.
How do you get your colleagues on board with co-requisites?	Co Requisite	One way is to show them all the research on co-requisites and the student success numbers versus the number of students who typically drop out or do not graduate if they have to go through traditional developmental course model. Due to research, more states are requiring the corequisite model.
Have you had to decrease quality in Precalculus track to match incoming students levels? If not, how did you do that? Common Final?	Co Requisite	No, we have not changed the Precalculus course in any way. All sections of Precalc have all of the same assignments, lab assignments and exams.
What does exit advising look like for students who are unsuccessful in the co-requisite model? Are they repeating the course? Go back to transition course?	Co Requisite	Students have all of those options available to them when they determine what is their best next step. If the student is successful in the gateway and not the coreq then they will be able to move on. If the opposite is the case, the student will have the option to take the coreq again if they feel that is the most appropriate for them or, since they have earned that credit, they can take the gateway a second time without a coreq. If they feel stepping back to transition would be beneficial then that is an option for them, too. Options for students is a key part of RISE. Good advising is critical to students making good choices. Each college implements this in a different way.

Can you explain more about NROC?	NROC	NROC is a non-profit project that offers curricular resources and applications to support college readiness, in math and English in particular. The EdReady application has been adapted for placement and for Transitions courses across NC. Some college are using elements for co-requisite support as well. Explore free resources at EdReady.org and Hippocampus.org and learn more about the member organization at NROC.org .
What LMS can be used with the NROC curriculum resources?	NROC	The installed courses can be installed in Moodle or just about any other LMS.