

**Los Medanos College
Developmental Education Program
Student Support Services
Math Lab**

Research/Effective Practice

In *What Works: Research-Based Practices in Developmental Education*, Hunter Boylan cites a variety of studies that support one of the major findings of the National Study of Developmental Education: “programs in which classrooms and laboratories are fully integrated had significantly higher pass rates in developmental courses than programs in which there was little integration.” (p. 64)

Classrooms and laboratories are not integrated just because they exist or because students taking classes occasionally use labs. Integration is characterized by

- instructors and lab personnel that work closely together to design lab experiences that are directly related to course goals and objectives;
- a requirement that students participate in lab activities as part of their course assignments and lab activities count into the course grade;
- labs that are in reasonably close proximity to the courses they support.

LMC Current Practice (2007)

With the exception of some of our arithmetic courses, all math courses at LMC have one to two hours of lab “by arrangement” as part of their design. Lab assignments include activities from a locally authored activities packet or computerized assignments. The math lab is located in the same building that houses math classrooms. It consists of a tutoring lab, a study lab, a computer lab, and a testing room. It is open six days a week for drop-in help and is staffed by math faculty, classified staff, and a few advanced student tutors.