



*Make It Happen!
Innovation Grant*

INFORMATION DATA FORM

1. Project Name:

Expanding Advising Options in the 21st Century

E-MAP: Creating an online advising and placement program

2. Project Director:

Jim Daniels {Tim Kirkner, Julie Levinson & Anita Crawley}

3. Project Starting and Ending Date:

February 2006 – December 2006

4. Brief description of the project:

The Rockville Counseling Office is interested in developing an online version of the Montgomery College Advising & Placement Program (MAP). Currently, students must attend a 2-hour session on campus. A web-based alternative would provide students with more flexibility in accessing critical advising information. This tool will also alleviate some of the logistical difficulties we encounter in terms of staffing and finding/reserving classrooms for this program.

The grant would enable us to dedicate staff time and money to more fully implement this idea. In order to develop this program we need to conduct further research on the available technological options available for both production and delivery. For instance, we are considering using the WebCT environment. However, we need more information on how to use this technology with such a large population. Additionally, we would like to explore making a video that can serve as a precursor to the actual face to face MAP.

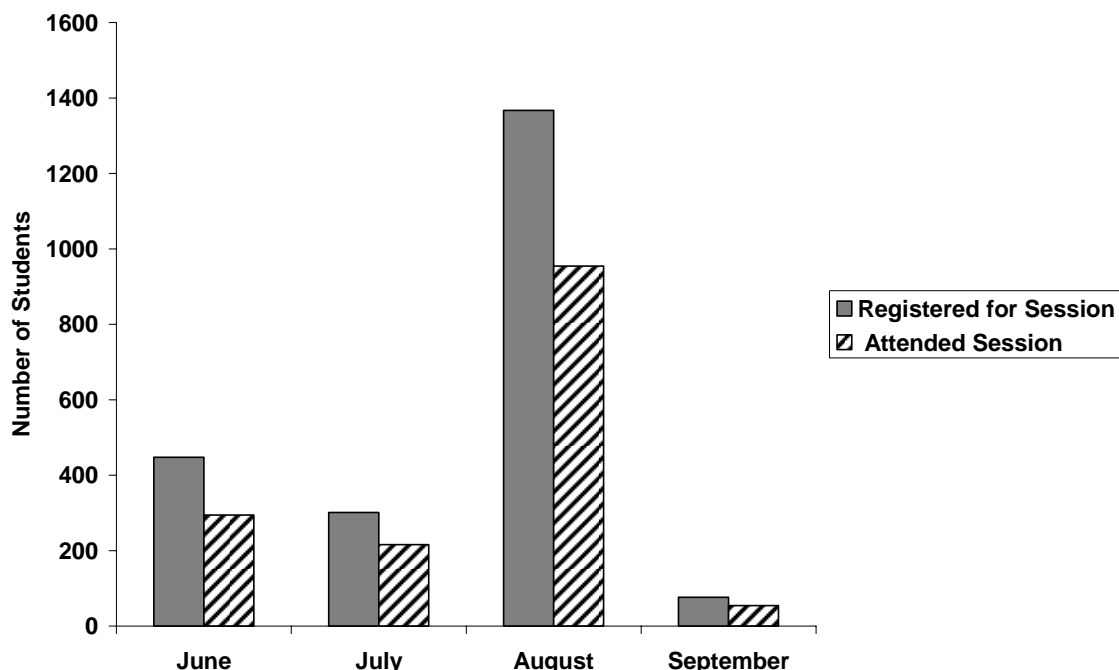
5. State fundamental need or concern addressed in this project.

An online MAP would address three major concerns. First, we regularly encounter challenges in finding space for the numerous sessions offered throughout the semester. Therefore, currently we can only schedule MAPs when space is available. Second, students tend to wait until the last few weeks before the semester begins to schedule or re-schedule an advising session. In particular, during the month of August, an online alternative to the face to face session would alleviate overcrowding and student frustration.

Jan.-Nov. 2005	MAP	IMAP
# of sessions	64	56

Summer 2005 MAPs

Students registering	3155	2276
Students attending	2168	1729



Finally, our students come into the MAP session with varying levels of need in terms of information and advising. A self-guided process would permit students to move through the advising session at their own pace. This is beneficial for students who already have general familiarity with the college procedures or Montgomery College’s requirements in particular. It also benefits those who need more time to absorb and make sense of the information.

6. List the project’s core goals and/or objectives.

As stated above, the primary objective of this project is to support the same core goals as the traditional face-to-face MAP through a more flexible online format. The main objective of the MAP is to ensure students understand how to select courses during their first semester at MC. It also helps them begin planning for subsequent semesters. As with the face-to-face MAP, students will be encouraged to have a follow-up session with a counselor. During the individual session they are more likely to ask questions that pertain to their goals instead of the general advising questions that are addressed in the MAP.

7. Who will benefit from this project?

Although both students and faculty/staff will benefit from this project, students will benefit most if they will be able to have their test scores interpreted and obtain initial advising more efficiently online.

The counseling faculty and staff will also reap rewards from an online program. Primarily it will reduce the strain on resources during periods of heavy demand. It will also provide a test case from which other delivery methods for counseling programs and workshops could be developed.