



**Leveraging the Pandemic:
Teaching and Empowering Adult
English Learners with Language &
Digital Literacy in Online Modality**

Akiko Ota, Ed.D.

Director, English Language Learning Center
at Governors State University

Agenda

1. Intensive English program
2. GEER Project
3. Timeline
4. Curriculum and materials
5. Courses & Participants
6. Outcomes (grades, scores, goals)
7. Lessons Learned

Acronyms

*GEER - Governor's
Emergency Educational
Relief*

*GSU - Governors State
University*

*SXL - School of
Extended Learning*

*IEP - Intensive English
Program*



IEP at GSU

- > Pre-Pandemic
- > After March 2020

GEER Funding

- > Announced on 7/21/20 and closed on 8/20/20
- > Grant Priority was given to IHEs which enroll higher proportions of underrepresented student populations which include a combination of the following:
 - Minority
 - First generation
 - Rural
 - Pell eligible in academic year 2019-2020.

Project

- > **Intensive English, Digital Literacy, and Math Intervention Project**
 - CAS - Math Intervention Project
 - SXL - Intensive English, Digital Literacy, and Math Intervention Project
 - 30 Participants
 - Permanent Resident/Naturalized Citizens
 - South Cook county/Will county



ROADMAP

- Course hours/week,
- Program duration
- ESL subjects
- Adjustment of the curriculum

Meeting with partner organizations & prospective participants

Placement Test, Course Roster, & materials pick-up



Marketing Materials
Recruiting partner organizations

Application, Admission, instructor Assignments, & decisions/ordering materials

Orientation & Start of the program

Curriculum - Cohort 1 & 2

	Regular IEP	GEER IEP
Reading & Vocabulary	5	5.5
Writing and Grammar	8	
Listening & Speaking	5	2.5
Mastering College/Digital Literacy	2	1
Tutoring	(Office Hours)	1 (optional)
Total Hours / week	20	9-10



Materials

- > Textbooks & Online practices
- > Headset
- > Wifi-subsidy
- > Laptop

STAFF ROLES

- > SXL Director of Strategic Initiatives - Overseeing the grant
- > ELLC director
 - Recruitment of organizations and candidates
 - Placement tests & admissions,
 - Class registration
 - Materials selection, orders, & pick up
 - Advising
 - Tutoring sign up update
 - Qualitative data interpretation - grades, attendance, student & instructor reflections
- > Instructor 1 and 2: class instructions + grading + tutoring
- > Researcher - analyze data quantitatively

Participant Requirements

- > HS senior and/or 18+
- > Has SSN
- > CEFR B1- or IELTS 5.0 Level English Proficiency
 - Pearson Versant English Placement Test
- > Low-income or 1st generation college student
- > Attend 80% of the classes
- > Attend GSU Open House
- > Agrees w/one of the program goals:
 - GSU / IL College / WIOA Training

Logistics - Cohort 1 and 2

- 9 hrs/wk Zoom classes
- 1 hr / wk tutoring (optional)
- 15 weeks x 2 semesters
- Level 3 and Level 4
- Reading, Writing & Grammar (5.5 hrs/wk)
- Listening & Speaking (2.5 hrs/wk)
- Mastering College & Digital Literacy (1 hr/wk)

Cohort 1 and 2

Cohort	1 (PM)	2 (AM)
Term	2/1 - 9/2/21	4/1 - 11/4/21
# Entered	16	7
# Finished	11	6
# Passed	7	6

Cohort 1&2 Pre/Post-Tests

Cohort	1	2
# post test improved	6	3
# post test declined	3	0
# post test the same	1	2
# post test not taken	1	1

Student Goals - Cohort 1

4 entered IL colleges

- > UIC
- > SSCC-DDP
- > PSC
- > PSC-GSU DDP

1 Entered WIOA training & 1 Inquired about WIOA

1 gained employment

4 Goals not achieved

Student Goals - Cohort 2

- > 1 entered IL colleges
 - City Colleges of Chicago - Malcolm X College
- > 1 Applied to GSU but decided to take GED (transcript issue)
- > 2 gained employment
- > 2 did not achieve goals

Lessons learned from cohort 1 & 2

- > Application process
 - Clearer goals
 - Entry level
 - Interview
- > # of hours/week
- > Tech Skills
- > Students' lives
- > Timing of the program



LOGISTICS – Cohort 3


- 6.5 hrs/wk Zoom classes for 45 weeks (22 + 23)
- 1 hr / wk tutoring (optional)
- 22 weeks + 23 weeks
- Level 3 and Level 4
- Reading, Writing & Grammar (3.5 hrs/wk)
- Listening & Speaking (2.25 hrs/wk)
- Mastering College & Digital Literacy (1.5 hrs/every other week → every week)

Cohort 3

Cohort	3 (AM)	3 (PM)
Term	8/4/21 - 7/7/22	
# Entered	5	4
# as of 4/6/22	5	4
# Passed LV 3	4	3

Lessons Learned from Cohort 1-3

- > Application process - Clearer goals, Entry level, & Interview
- > # of hours/week
- > # of total hours
- > Tech Skills
- > Tutoring - Not optional / add an hour to a class
- > Students' lives



Thank You!

Any questions?

aota@govst.edu

<https://www.govst.edu/SXL/>