

# NOVA PROGRAM

## Assessment of NOVA Students' Library Skills:

### *Comparing Library Instruction Approaches for First Year Students*

#### Description of NOVA

NOVA is a federally-funded project with the legislative intent to increase retention and graduation rates of low-income and first generation students.

NOVA participants enter the project as first-time freshmen and participate in the highly structured NOVA first-year experience. They begin their involvement with the NOVA Learning Community through their enrollment in the specially designed NOVA GSO 100 Academic Orientation taught by professional staff.

#### Project Background

- EKU Libraries has traditionally offered library orientation to all freshmen through the GSO 100 (Academic Orientation) courses.
- Fall 2005 marked the beginning of a new approach to library orientation.
- EKU Libraries developed a series of online tutorials to inform first year students about library services and resources

#### The Assessment Question

How does **individualized instruction** impact student learning compared with students who received only the **online library tutorials**?

#### Actions Steps

- 2 NOVA GSO 100 sections (n = 48) received library instruction via online tutorials only (Control Group).
- 2 NOVA GSO 100 sections (n = 59) received online tutorials and face-to-face library instruction in conjunction with a library-integrated assignment (Treatment Group).
- Assessment of student outcomes to be conducted in two phases.

#### Student Outcomes

Student learning will be assessed on the following levels:

1. **Attitudinal**- perception of learning
2. **Knowledge**- recall and retention of knowledge
3. **Skills**- actual skills exhibited
4. **Performance on ENG 102 research paper**- retention and application of skills

#### Project Status

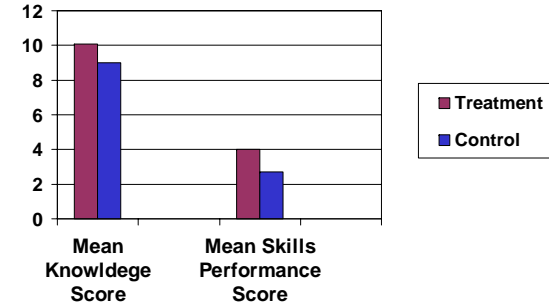
Data for Phase 1 has been collected an data analysis is in progress.

**Mean knowledge score** = sum of correct answers to 14 multiple choice knowledge questions

**Mean skills performance score**= sum of correct answers located during skills test

**Independent t-tests** revealed statistically significant differences in performance in favor of the treatment group on both measures.

#### Preliminary Results



#### Assessment Future

Phase 2

- NOVA students (n=32) have voluntarily enrolled in one of four specific ENG 102 sections.
- Research papers from these sections will be collected and the research skills portion of the ENG 102 rubric will be applied to assess retention and application of research skills.
- Students will also complete second assessment of attitudes, knowledge and skills in April.
- Data analysis will be conducted during June and July of 2006.