

Meeting: 1003, Atlanta, Georgia, MAA CP K1, MAA Session on Countering “I Can’t Do Math”: Strategies for Teaching Under-Prepared, Math-Anxious Students

1003-K1-519 **Laura Schooler Adkins*** (adkins-1@mssu.edu), Missouri Southern State University,
Department of Mathematics, 3950 E. Newman Road, Joplin, MO 64801. *A Look at a University
Course in Overcoming Mathematics Anxiety.*

Many university students suffer from some form of mathematics anxiety, and this is particularly true of many elementary education majors. Therefore, this course is designed for the math anxious students in general and for the elementary education majors with math anxiety in particular. Designed to help the students understand, cope with, and alleviate their personal mathematics anxiety through a variety of intervention strategies, the course also teaches a wide range of pedagogy that the elementary education majors can incorporate in their own teaching to help break the cycle of mathematics anxiety in their future classrooms. The course consists of alternative algorithms, group work, double entry journals specifically geared to the math anxious, math autobiographies, mathematics through literature, the use of math manipulatives, learning style inventories, personality profiles, large group discussion, role playing, relaxation and visualization exercises, and other strategies for learning math, overcoming mathematics anxiety, and learning to teach mathematics to elementary school students. The students engage in active learning and create materials they will use to teach mathematics in their future classrooms. (Received September 19, 2004)