

1046-C1-1858

Bill Haver* (whaver@vcu.edu) and **Kim Shannon**. *Teaching Modeling College Algebra for 2000 students: Garnering support from Faculty and Administrators.*

Beginning in 2008, Virginia Commonwealth University is offering all sections of College Algebra using a modeling approach. Approximately 2000 students enroll in College Algebra each year. We have adopted the MAA College Algebra Guidelines and its Course Goals, Competencies, Emphasis in Pedagogy, and Assessment. Before the decision was made to offer all sections of the course following the Guidelines we piloted the modeling course for four years. During the first two years the students did not know which approach they were registering for. The large majority of the instructors were very favorable about the approach and thought that the students learned more. The faculty, and particularly the university administration, supported the decision to offer all sections of the course in this format partially on the basis that the DFW rate has been significantly lower in the modeling sections and student success rate (for the much larger percentage of students who took the following courses) has been at least as high in subsequent courses. The administration has provided financial support to limit class size to 32 and to hire an undergraduate student assistant for each section, enabling instructors to teach the course in the spirit of the Guidelines. (Received September 16, 2008)