

## Bakersfield College 2008 Critical Academic Skills (CAS) Workshop Pilot Project

**YOUR HELP IS NEEDED:** Please refer your students to any of the CAS Workshops, which will help them be better prepared for your class. Assigning the workshops as homework would be ideal, but given the specificity of workshop times, an alternative assignment might be needed—perhaps work in the Student Success Lab, Math Lab, or Tutoring Center. These workshops could also be an extra-credit option for your students! In some cases, if given enough lead time, the workshop presenter may be able to make special arrangements to bring the workshop to your class. **For more information, contact Kimberly Van Horne, CAS Pilot Monitor, at ext. 4539 or [kvan@bakersfieldcollege.edu](mailto:kvan@bakersfieldcollege.edu).**

**BACKGROUND:** The Student Success Initiative Team continues to work to develop activities that will help BC faculty and staff improve the learning and support opportunities for our students. Last May, after hearing about another college's success with a full range of student support workshops, a group of faculty and staff decided to develop this pilot program, called Critical Academic Skills (CAS) Workshops. The intent is to provide students with an opportunity to get extra practice/instruction in a skill that they may have had difficulty in mastering in the traditional classroom setting. Eleven workshops have been developed as a fall 2008 pilot. The CAS Advisory Team included the following: Helen Acosta, Sudha Bhatt, Kerrie Buis, Debbie Cantrell, Nakysa Cummings, Gloria Dumler, Leticia Garza, Sonia Jeffery, Stephanie McWilliams, Patrice Plummer, Jennifer Smith, Nick Strobel, and Kimberly Van Horne.

**LOGISTICS:** The following 11 workshops have been developed (*see reverse side for descriptions*):

- Academic Culture: What 'Successful' Students Understand
- The Driving Force of Papers: Thesis & Topic Sentences
- Punctuation Perils, Part One: Comma Crimes
- Punctuation Perils, Part Two: Semicolon & Colon Crises
- Punctuation Perils, Part Three: Appalling Apostrophes
- Scary Sentences: Fixing Fragments and Repairing Run-ons
- The "P" Word: Avoiding Plagiarism & Using Sources Effectively
- Making Multiplication Math Facts Memorable
- Dissecting Long Division
- Attacking Words in Word Problems
- Preparing Powerful PowerPoints

Each CAS Workshop will be offered at least two to six times throughout the semester. One is available as an online, self-paced tutorial review (PowerPoint). Often members of the Advisory/Development Team will be the workshop presenters, but the plan is that a packet of materials will be ready so any qualified presenter can step in to offer the workshop. By design, each workshop will last 50 minutes and will utilize active learning activities. A handout for students will provide a matrix showing times and locations for all the workshops for the semester. Many of these will be offered in Delano as well (separate matrix). Each matrix and referral forms are available in BC public folders: Developmental Education > CAS Workshops.

**ASSESSMENT:** This pilot semester, student participants will be asked to complete surveys to help the developers monitor the effectiveness of the workshops—both the content as well as the scheduling pattern. Presenters will also help evaluate the workshops and the process. Any faculty member who refers students will also be asked for some quick feedback, especially noting how students responded and if there seemed to be better understanding or engagement in the classroom. We will also have the student ID numbers, so some tracking will be monitored as this CAS Workshop Pilot is assessed.

**THIS PILOT STARTS WITH FACULTY AND STAFF ANNOUNCEMENT AND REFERRALS!**  
**Thanks in advance for your help!**

**BAKERSFIELD COLLEGE CRITICAL ACADEMIC SKILLS WORKSHOPS: Fall 2008 Pilot Workshops begin promptly! Late arrivals will not be admitted. See CAS Matrix for Days/Times.**

**Academic Culture: What ‘Successful’ Students Understand** Being a “good” college student requires a lot of hard work, motivation and perseverance. In many ways going to college can seem like you are you traveling in a new country with its own language and basic expectations about how to interact with others. This workshop gives students tips on what to expect and how to become the best student possible.

**The Driving Force of Papers: Thesis and Topic Sentences** Thesis what?! Don't worry. This workshop isn't as fancy as it sounds. It will, however, teach you to write a successful thesis statement that will guide the rest of your paper, as well as topic sentences for each of your body paragraphs that will support your well-crafted and masterful thesis statement.

**Punctuation Perils, Part One: Comma Crimes** Do commas confuse you? Do you use a comma whenever you pause? Do you sprinkle commas into your sentences hoping that at least some of them will land in the right places? We can rehabilitate you with some simple tips and exercises.

**Punctuation Perils, Part Two: Semicolon and Colon Crises** Do you drop a colon in every time you begin a list? Do you think semicolons are just mini-colons? Do you avoid them both altogether because you haven't a clue about what they are used for? We can clear up all that confusion for you. Trust us--mastering colons and semicolons is a lot easier than you think.

**Punctuation Perils, Part Three: Appalling Apostrophes** Do you think "it's" is the possessive form of "it"? Do you believe that all words are made possessive by adding an apostrophe and an "s"? Do you mix up plural and singular possessives? The Internet, newspapers, and countless advertisements and signs are filled with apostrophe errors, so it is hard to know what examples to follow. We'll clear it all up for you.

**Scary Sentences: Fixing Fragments and Repairing Run-ons** Were you ever puzzled by a teacher's addition of the word "frag" next to one of your sentences? Did looking it up in a dictionary and reading "to deliberately kill an unpopular senior officer, typically with a hand grenade" confuse you even further? Fragments, fused sentences, and commas splices have nothing to do with fuses, explosives, or weapons of any kind, but they can be dangerous to your essay grades. We'll show you how to recognize and fix them before they can blow up in your face.

**The "P" Word: Avoiding Plagiarism and Using Sources Effectively** Plagiarism sounds like a scary word, but with this workshop, you will triumph over the "p" word. You will also learn how to use sources in a way that demonstrates your brilliance and research skills to your professors. If you're writing a research paper, this is the workshop to go to! (By the way--anything you can find on the Net has already been discovered by your professors).

**Making Multiplication Math Facts Memorable** Throw out your math fact sheet! This class will help you learn some quick and fun tips to assist in learning and memorizing basic multiplication facts.

**Dissecting Long Division** You won't turn and run the next time you see a long division problem! This workshop demystifies division and empowers you to take it on with confidence!

**Attacking Words in Word Problems** Discover the mystifying meaning behind the clue words in word problems. Understanding the word clues unlocks the code to help solve word problems!

**Preparing Powerful PowerPoints** Learn the basics to ensure that your PowerPoint presentations enhance your oral presentations and keep the audience engaged. This is an online workshop tutorial available through the following URL: