

WCC OFFERS SEPARATE SAT VERBAL SKILLS AND MATH PREP COURSES THIS FALL

Wytheville Community College will offer two one-credit courses this fall—a change from previous plans to offer only a single, all-inclusive course—entitled “SDV 95-15H: SAT English and Verbal Skills Preparation” and “SDV 95-16H: SAT Math and Computational Skills Preparation” that should be of interest to all area high school students planning to take the SAT Reasoning Test and who would like to improve their scores on the test.

Interested students should register early, however, as this class is expected to fill up quickly.

The courses will both meet from 9 a.m. to 12 noon for three Saturdays in Room 104, Bland Hall, on the WCC campus in Wytheville. The SDV 95-15H course will meet September 12, 19, and 26 and the SDV 95-16H course will meet October 10, 17, and 24. Both courses will include work outside of the classroom using various Internet resources for skills improvement and practice in taking a timed test.

“We decided to divide the original course into two separate courses,” explained Dr. Bruce Brown, WCC’s Dean of Humanities, Social Sciences & Business Information Technologies. “This way, students with good math skills can concentrate on their verbal skills, or students with strong verbal skills can work on their computational skills and only have to take the course that concentrates on the areas where they need improvement. On the other hand, students who need to improve in both verbal and math skills can sign up for both courses and still get exactly what they need.”

Financial assistance is available for Wythe County students who would like to take the courses but cannot afford to do so. The Wythe County Public Schools Foundation for Excellence will provide scholarships and textbook assistance for students demonstrating financial need. Please check with your high school guidance counselor for more information or call the Foundation for Excellence at 228-5411.

Tuition and fees for each course is \$93.70. The text used in this course is *The Official SAT Study Guide by The College Board* and is available at the WCC Bookstore.

Students who take both of the offered courses are expected to see an average of an 85-100 point improvement. Pre- and post-tests are used to measure student improvement during the courses.

The reading and writing course, SDV 95-15H is designed to help students:

- with sentence completion questions that test vocabulary;
- improve comprehension for the passage-based reading questions;
- improve writing by strengthening sentences, identifying sentence errors, and improving paragraphs;
- structure the five-paragraph essay for a "timed test";
- improve the five-paragraph essay through revision and editing; and
- improve coherence of ideas within paragraphs.

Also addressed will be the "stress" associated with taking a timed test. Students will learn test-taking techniques for both reading comprehension and writing. The course will explore suggestions for successful management of time, becoming "test-wise" in answering multiple choice math questions, knowing effective uses of the calculator on the math SAT, and “memorization or calculation” techniques.

Deanna Bradberry will teach the verbal skills course. She currently teaches English 11 at Rural Retreat High School, has been an adjunct member of the English faculty at Wytheville Community College for eight years, and has experience scoring the essay portion of the SAT.

For the math course, SDV 95-16H, is designed to help students:

- strengthen basic mathematics skills and problem solving;
- improve strategies for handling the toughest math questions, whatever their format;
- improve solving skills for the trickiest "straight math" questions found on the SAT;
- strengthen skills needed for solving word problems found on the SAT;
- practice the tips and strategies needed for success on the SAT math sections; and
- become comfortable with the methods of entering math answers on the SAT math grid.

Barbara Cassell will teach the math course. She has taught as an adjunct instructor at WCC for more than 20 years. Currently she teaches the dual enrollment pre-calculus and calculus classes at George Wythe High School. In the past she has taught SAT prep classes for WCC at the main campus and in surrounding counties' educational centers.

For more information or to register for SDV 95-15H or SDV 95-16H, call 223-4758 or call toll free (outside Wythe County) 1-800-468-1195, ext. 4758. **Students must complete a WCC application to enroll in the course and students under the age of 18 will need a permission letter from their high school principal.**

For information on financial assistance, Wythe County students please call the Foundation for Excellence at 228-5411.