The Project

In the fall quarter of 2011 Mathkombat was proposed as a bootcamp style workshop focusing on the skills from Prealgebra which are needed in helping students succeed in Intermediate Algebra. The first pilot was completed successfully yet there were some challenges which suggested changes to be made to the second pilot in the spring quarter. One of the biggest challenges was to find a time fitting the schedule of majority of interested students. The fall program was held for one week, everyday, which conflicted with the schedule of several interested students. Also students showed interest in having topic based sessions to give students more focus on particular topics and possibly more flexibility for students with demanding work/school schedule.

Spring Pilot

The modified pilot was held in the spring quarter of 2012. The sessions where spread over two weeks and moved to an earlier time of day on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6/5-6/14. Although almost 32 people expressed interest and promised joining the sessions only 16 showed up for most of the 4 sessions which was less than desired. Out of the 16, 8 (50%) have passed the transferrable Intermediate algebra. Although the success rate is well above the normal rate, which is 10%-20% for the target group of students, the turnout was disappointing and a challenge that persists. If the program continues in future quarters, it is recommended to include some strong incentives for students to make participation more attractive. Priority registration in their next mathematics class or an override of the three strikes rule (if possible) could be one such incentive.

Student feedback

Students who participated were very positive and express appreciation for the program. From fall quarter to spring quarter, the word of the bootcamp spread and several students inquired information and showed great interest however not all the interest turned into participation. This could mean some incentive may give the needed extra push to encourage somewhat interested students to participate and increase their chance of success in completing their degree and transferring.

On DARE

Although the idea of bootcamp has always been circulating in my mind and most likely the mind of many others, the support given by DARE definitely played a huge rule in motivating this project which is greatly appreciated.