

Your Guide to **GETTING STARTED WITH COREQUISITES**

Corequisite Trends,
Implementation Models
and Challenges for
Math and Statistics



Why Corequisites?

Corequisite course models are a growing trend across the nation—allowing students to complete their prerequisite course requirement at the same time as their credit course.

The model is intended to help students earn college credits sooner, pass their Math and Statistics courses and by extension, improve graduation rates. As a result, corequisite implementations are often driven by state, institutional or departmental mandates.

Regardless of the driving forces behind implementing a corequisite model, it can be challenging to understand the various approaches while customizing the model to meet the unique needs of your course and students.

Keep reading for insights and support to guide you through the corequisite implementation process.

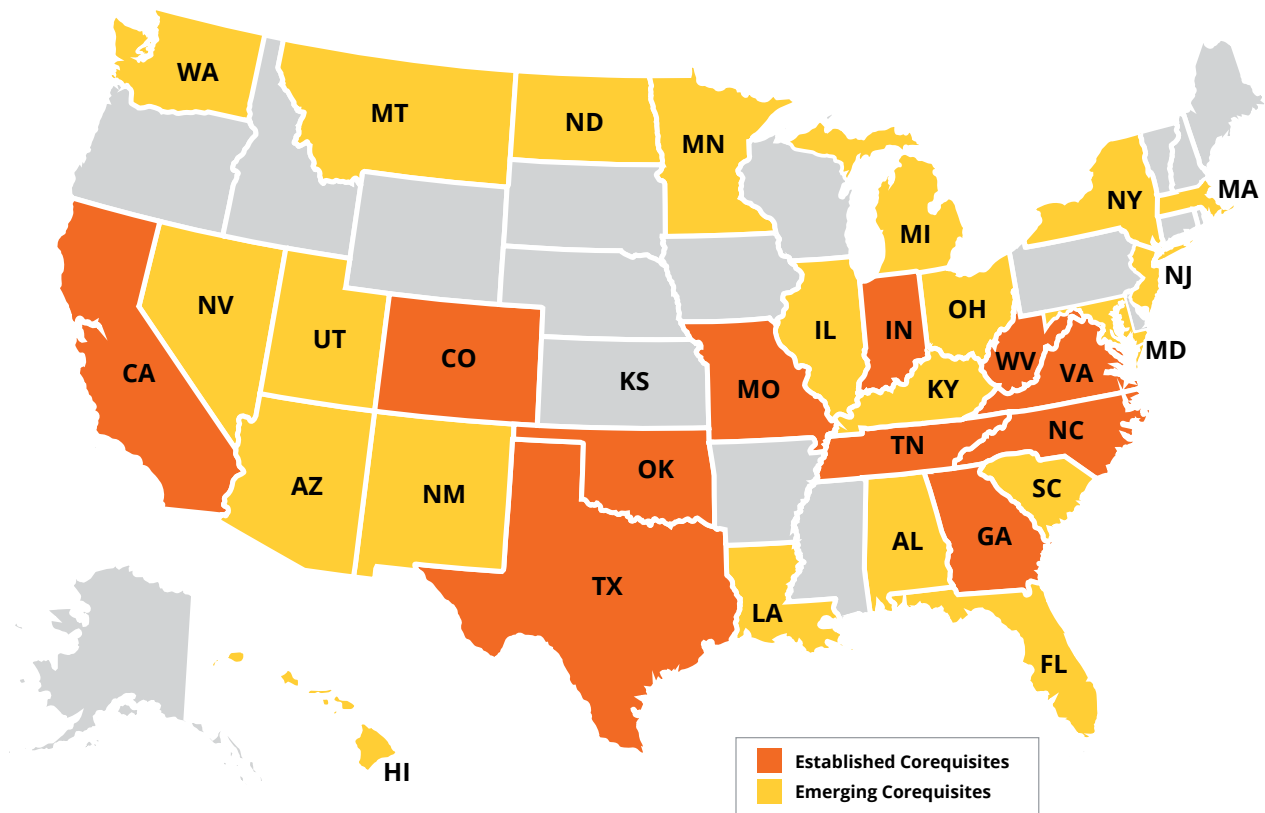


CONTENTS

Corequisites Across the Nation	3
Common Implementations	4
Getting Started Checklist	6
Solving Common Challenges with WebAssign	7
Key Takeaways	8

Corequisites Across the Nation

[Early data](#) indicates that many schools and states see corequisites as an affordable and effective alternative to traditional remediation models. This is gaining traction nationally as you can see on this map—based on our research of state corequisite use—which indicates state-wide and grassroots initiatives:



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71%

of department chairs and instructors we [surveyed](#) are currently implementing a corequisite model or plan to within the next three years.

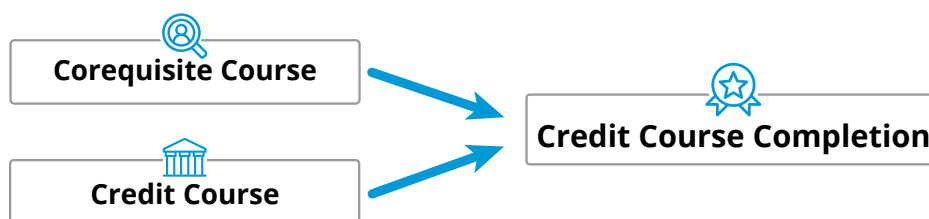


Common Implementations

While corequisite implementations can vary widely depending on the needs of an institution, **three of the most common models are:**

1. Separate Support Lab or Course

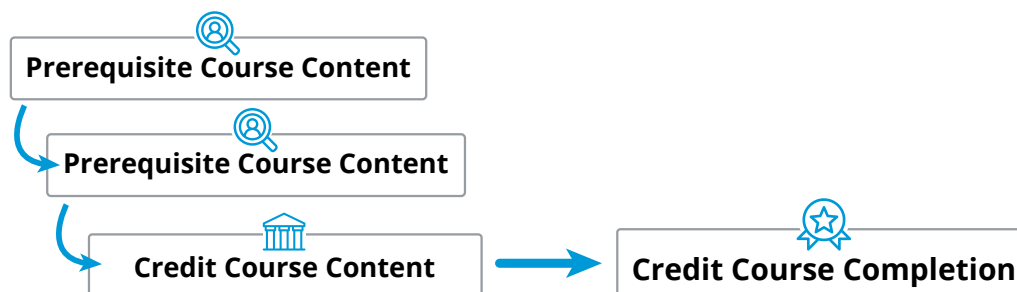
In this model, students take their credit-bearing and prerequisite course requirement at the same time—with the addition of a lab paired with the credit course. The lab can be a preview of what's to come in the credit course or act as an opportunity to address the foundational skills students are struggling with to successfully understand the credit course.



Course topics for labs are often determined by the learning needs of the students and can be challenging to assess and coordinate if there's a paired teaching model in place. However, paired teaching models relieve some of the burden of creating materials for multiple courses—as each teacher will create content for their own course. Students in these models are also required to purchase materials for two separate courses, which could affect enrollment if students have financial restrictions.

2. A Compressed or Stacked Model

Compressed (Stacked) courses frontload prerequisites in the opening weeks of a semester—providing students with a “crash course” of essential concepts necessary to complete their credit-bearing class. Students may take an average of 8 weeks of remedial prep and 8 weeks of standard class material. Some schools find it helpful to administer an assessment halfway through the course to confirm students have mastered the foundational skills and are ready for the college-level material.



3. An Integrated Model with Just-In-Time Support

This model integrates prerequisite course content throughout the credit course as students need it. There is no separate lab focusing solely on prerequisite content, which means instructors will select and incorporate the necessary prerequisite content throughout the credit course.



Although this model allows students to be organized in either a comingled or separate class (cohort), cohort organization is recommended to reduce course set up time—as it only requires tailoring the course to one level of student preparedness. If you choose a comingled model, you'll need to prepare corequisite and credit materials and personalize your course delivery to ensure both groups receive the appropriate content.



Cohorts organize students assessed as unprepared into their own class or section with other students requiring corequisite support. This allows instructors to easily identify and provide individualized support according to their individual levels of preparedness.



Comingled organization blends students enrolled in corequisite support with students strictly enrolled in the credit-bearing course. This organization reduces the number of class sections needed—but requires more effort to identify and provide personalized support to remedial students.

While each corequisite model varies, it should be noted that these are common models. Each model is flexible to the unique needs of your specific pedagogy—and can be introduced alongside a digital learning platform to enhance instructional capabilities and optimally impact learners.

Getting Started Checklist

With these models in mind, you can start the implementation process by outlining your goals, approach and people involved. To help, take a look at the quick-start checklist below:

- ☐ Who's leading the charge in the department? Is there a committee planning and designing the course?
- ☐ Is there cross-campus buy-in from stakeholders including support from advising, financial aid and IT?
- ☐ Is the English department also implementing corequisites? How can you partner with them?
- ☐ What corequisite model will you use and what practical challenges will it present for scheduling, staffing and other logistics?
- ☐ Can you pilot first across specific sections or courses before scaling across multiple ones?
- ☐ Will your corequisite classes be comingled or cohort?
- ☐ How are the non-credit and credit courses taught?
- ☐ Will you use a paired-teaching model or the same instructor? Are there credentialing concerns?
- ☐ Will teaching styles change for the credit portion of the corequisite? Are you revisiting what content you'll use—and when you'll use it—to best prepare learners?
- ☐ Do you know the learning objectives you want to cover in the developmental portion of the corequisite?
- ☐ What is the grading policy for the course? How are you assessing students?
- ☐ What impact does the implementation have on your course materials? What additional support may you need?
- ☐ Will you implement collaborative and active learning group work in the developmental portion of the course? If so, what materials do you need?
- ☐ Will you integrate study skills, college readiness skills and growth mindset activities?
- ☐ What kind of training and support is needed/available for instructors?
- ☐ Do you know other schools that have successfully gone through this model?

Can you consult with them?



Need help connecting with another school implementing corequisites?

[Contact your Learning Consultant for assistance!](#)

Solving Common Corequisite Challenges with WebAssign

Regardless of the model you choose, online platforms like *WebAssign* address the common pitfalls of corequisite implementation—simplifying corequisite conversion to make the process simple and effective. Learn how in the table below:

COMMON CHALLENGES	WEBASSIGN FOR COREQUISITE
 Streamlining Course Set Up If you are developing an integrated model with just-in-time support or collaborating with another instructor, you (and your collaborators) will need to prepare both credit and prerequisite course assignments and content to ensure students reach their learning objectives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✔ Save time in course setup with curated, pre-built course packs—including assignments mapped to learning objectives for both the credit and prerequisite coursework—to keep instruction aligned✔ Easily create engaging hands-on materials with the right learning objectives for lab or group work using pre-made customizable worksheets
 Maintaining Cohesion with Multiple Instructors Separate support course models often leverage multiple instructors across both courses—one dedicated to the prerequisite course and another to the credit course. As a result, it can be difficult for both instructors to collaborate, share course materials and consistently align instruction across both courses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✔ Facilitate alignment across faculty by granting partial, full-course or section access to your classes using flexible course permissions✔ Streamline the student registration process with one access code for course materials across both classes
 Personalizing Instruction to Different Levels of Student Preparation As students work through their lessons, it can be challenging to identify the areas where individual students are struggling. Moreover, the success of just-in-time support is dependent on an instructor's ability to tailor content to the unique needs of individual learners.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✔ Provide a personalized learning experience for each student utilizing conditional release✔ Give students more practice with the assignable Personal Study Plan to ensure students spend time on topics they need help with✔ Grant extra time for specific students using flexible assignment settings✔ Address non-Math obstacles—from study skills to communication skills—with assignable College Success Modules for students to address study habit gaps
 Student Assessment and Progress Tracking Considering single (integrated or stacked) course models group prerequisite content before or alongside credit-bearing coursework, it can be difficult to assess student preparedness and monitor performance across the remedial and credit-course topics. This can be even more challenging across two different sections where there can be multiple instructors teaching the course.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✔ Gauge students' understanding of corequisite course topics with customizable, pre-built quizzes for each chapter✔ Quickly track class and student progress with Class Insights: a dashboard that provides digestible, actionable data by class, student, topic and question✔ Share grade book access with other instructors to improve collaboration and view students' progress across both courses
 Providing Affordable Course Resources Corequisite students need materials for both the corequisite and credit-bearing course. This can be financially daunting if students need to purchase traditional textbooks or digital access for two courses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✔ Students save with affordable access to all course materials—including ebooks and study materials for both corequisite and credit-bearing courses—for the standard price of just the credit course materials

Key Takeaways

Corequisite teaching models are steadily increasing across higher education to address common challenges like student success and retention, college affordability and college completion. By understanding the necessary steps to a successful course implementation, you can get a head start on planning your strategy.

Be sure to familiarize yourself with the unique corequisite remediation requirements of your state and institution and consider the role digital solutions like *WebAssign* can play in bolstering your corequisite success

Ready to Learn More?

Interested in learning more about the ways [WebAssign](#) can help you implement corequisite courses at your institution? Request a demo or consultation today!



[Connect with Us](#)

