



# Northeast Alabama Community College

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**TO:** WHOM IT MAY CONCERN  
**FROM:** Tonie Niblett, Chair, Math and Science  
**RE:** Learning Logic Algebra System  
**DATE:** March 26, 2003

In November 1997, Northeast Alabama Community College opened its Learning Logic Laboratory for the first time. One instructor put twenty-eight Elementary Algebra (MTH 098) students on the computers for three weeks. It was certainly a different experience for the students and the instructor. But immediately the instructor realized that this method of teaching algebra had great potential. From that small beginning six years ago, Northeast's Learning Logic Lab has evolved to become the hub and definite center of the Developmental Mathematics Program. For the spring 2003 semester there were sixteen classes in the Learning Logic Lab. Indeed, the Learning Logic system has proven to be a savior for the developmental mathematics students at Northeast.

The delivery and organization of the Learning Logic topics are excellent. Northeast students can move in a totally self-paced manner. Every student has to do his/her own work! This exclusively interactive format means that the student cannot just languish passively in a classroom lecture, barely make a "C" on a test, and then move to the next mathematics class without having learned a lot. Now the Northeast developmental student has to really master a topic. This mastery gives the student a better chance at succeeding at the next level and hence in college mathematics. Northeast students finish developmental mathematics courses at a higher rate and make better grades than they did using the traditional classroom approach. Before our Learning Logic Lab was organized if a student missed class because of illness of family or a change in work schedule, that student had a very difficult time catching up with the class. With the Learning Logic Lab, the student just picks up with their work and goes forward. One really excellent feature of the self-paced format is that a student could conceivably finish three developmental courses in one semester thus saving time and money. We have had several students to do just that. Finishing three courses in one semester resulted in a savings of tuition on two courses and one year of time.

After experimenting with various ways of scheduling the Learning Logic Lab, Northeast presently schedules three mathematics courses, Developmental Algebra (MTH 091), Elementary Algebra (MTH 098), and Intermediate Algebra (MTH 100) concurrently in the Learning Logic Lab. One teacher has students in all three of these courses in the same time slot. This means that a Northeast student could schedule anyone of three mathematics courses at any one of sixteen different time slots during the week. This scheduling bonus was an extra-added feature of the Learning Logic Lab. The Lab is

open from 7:30 AM until 9:30 PM Monday through Thursday and 8:00AM until 3:00 PM on Friday. Two tutors were employed to work in the Lab during the times when no instructor was scheduled in the Lab. A Northeast student can work on his/her developmental mathematics at anyone of the sixty-five hours and receive assistance from anyone of six instructors or two tutors. The Northeast Learning Logic Lab is the most used room in the campus.

The Northeast Technical Faculty approached the mathematics faculty with the idea to offer a developmental algebra class but with a technical component. During the summer of 2003, the Learning Logic Lab will add a fourth course which will incorporate more percentage and decimal problems, and uses the topics recently added on reading the ruler. This class will also use the employment test added to the system. This will mean that one teacher will be handling four courses in one time slot.

Another distinct advantage that Learning Logic has given the Northeast Developmental Program is a way of making day and evening courses consistent. With the Learning Logic Lab, all syllabi, grading on tests and homework have been standardized. These are all prepared along with a schedule of suggested dates of completion for each topic by the division chair and are ready to hand out at the first class meeting. This has led to total consistency in the day and evening offerings. It also makes it easy for the instructor to handle four courses as easily as one course.

President David Campbell has appointed a committee to work diligently to seek funding from a grant to secure a second Learning Logic Lab. This new Lab will greatly help with providing an additional place for students to work.