



# Case Study

## HARFORD COMMUNITY COLLEGE Putting SkillCheck to the Test

Recognizing the critical importance of computer skills in college course work, Harford Community College in Bel Air, Maryland wanted to ensure that all incoming students had the basic computer skills needed for them to be successful in their courses. Unfortunately, making a computer class mandatory for everyone would have been expensive and inefficient since computer skills varied so widely among its students.

To address this challenge, the college leveraged SkillCheck Assessments from First Advantage and its easy-to-use test-creation functionality to develop a 21-question computer proficiency test that students now take at registration. The test covers basic computer skills such as using a mouse, navigating the Internet, word processing and email.

While the vast majority of students taking the test pass, those who do not are now required to take and pass a one credit basic computer skills class. This introductory computer class is a prerequisite for many of the college's courses and is essential for all degree-seeking students. Barbara Mull, Dean of the Business, Computer and Technology Division at Harford, explains, "Being able to pinpoint exactly which students require further computer education saves us time, money and resources. It also helps us ensure that our students have the skills they need to be successful."

In the two months following the launch of the SkillCheck program, more than 1,600 Harford students had taken the test. The program has been so successful that the college is now moving to the SkillCheck online testing solution in order to offer this test to students from its multiple facilities.

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*Barbara Mull, Dean,  
Business, Computer  
and Technology Division,  
Harford Community College*

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