Competency-Based Education @ SLCC

Competency-based education focuses on student learning, and the application of that learning, rather than on time spent in class or on materials. Progress is measured by students demonstrating competency through a system of rigorous assessments, demonstrating proficiency of the knowledge and skills required for a particular competency or area of study. (C-BEN, 2015)

Some of the Benefits to Students

Self-Paced, Self-Directed Learning
Students have the flexibility to progress at either a regular or accelerated pace, depending on their needs. Based on gaps in their current knowledge, skills, and abilities, students are able to choose relevant resources and activities to attain the competencies of a given course or program.

Flexibility in Delivery
For incoming students, the design of the CBE model provides program entry dates at more frequent intervals than once a semester. Often, it is based on a hybrid, or blended, delivery system that uses both online and face-to-face instruction, which allows students to access learning materials and activities that accommodates their schedule and learning preference.

Recognition of Prior Learning
This delivery model recognizes and rewards all students for the knowledge they bring into their program of study. Learning is measured based on demonstration of competency and not time (credits or clock hours). If students have previous knowledge of a competency they can demonstrate that by accelerating through the assessment, or they may take additional time working up to an assessment if the competency is new to them.

Reduced Time to Completion
Students who enter the program with extra motivation, affinity to learn the material, or previous knowledge in the subject can accelerate through the program faster.

Reduced Cost of Attendance
Students who are able to accelerate through the program will pay less in tuition. The fewer calendar days a student takes to complete the program requirements the lower the tuition charged.

Salt Lake Community College