



Basic Skills Proficiency, Performance, and Progress of Students at Santiago Canyon College (Fall 2007)

May 2009

Background

Since basic skills, or “pre-collegiate,” coursework spans our college’s curriculum, the Basic Skills Initiative Task Force asked that the RSCCD Research Department compile data on the entire group of students to support the strategic planning of programs and services to better prepare these students for college-level coursework. For the purpose of this study, the Task Force identified the following pre-collegiate courses as basic skills: American College English (ACE N42, N43, 052, 053, 096, 102, 103 and 116), English (N50, 060 and 061), Math (N05, N06, N48, 060 and 080) and Reading (096 and 097). Further, only first-time freshmen (Fall 2007) are included in the sample for longitudinal tracking.

Summary of Findings

- About one-third (1148 of 3244) of SCC’s first-time freshmen were advised into basic skills (pre-collegiate) coursework in Fall 2007.
 - 20% (655 of 3244) of first-time freshmen actually enrolled in the advised coursework that semester.
- One-quarter (810 of 3244) of SCC’s first-time freshmen enrolled in basic skills (pre-collegiate) coursework in Fall 2007.
 - Overall, The success rate (A,B,C, or credit) of students enrolled in pre-collegiate courses was 57%. More than one-fifth (21%) withdrew from their courses.
 - In a comparison, of those enrolled in pre-collegiate courses versus those not enrolled in pre-collegiate courses, those enrolled in any level of pre-collegiate courses persisted at higher rates than those who were not (83% vs. 56% to the second semester).
 - Pre-collegiate first-time freshmen had slightly lower success rates in college-level courses than did those not enrolled in pre-collegiate courses (57% vs. 61%).
 - The proportion of students who enrolled in pre-collegiate coursework was similar in terms of gender and ethnicity. However, far greater numbers of young adults enrolled in basic skills; most (96%) were 21 years of age or younger.

Overview of Basic Skills (Pre-Collegiate) Advisements and Enrollments

The basic skills environment at SCC can be examined from different perspectives: that of individuals in our student population who, through placement testing, multiple measures, and counselor recommendation, demonstrate the **need** to gain proficiency in the basic skills areas AND that of our students who actually **enroll** in pre-collegiate coursework—regardless of how or why they enrolled in that course. The table below offers an overview of these two populations:

Pattern of Advisement and Enrollment into Pre-Collegiate(Basic Skills) Coursework at SCC (Fall 2007)

1 st -Time Freshmen	Advisement to Basic Skills Coursework								Actual Enrollment (with or without advisement) in Basic Skills Coursework (n=810)			
	Advisement (n=1148 or 35%)				Enrollment (n=655 or (20%))				ENG	ACE	MATH	READ
3244	ENG	ACE	MATH	READ	ENG	ACE	MATH	READ	ENG	ACE	MATH	READ
	586	96	904	397	280	39	513	61	335	51	686	84
	51%	8%	79%	35%	48%	41%	57%	15%	41%	6%	85%	10%

- About one-third (1148 of 3244) of SCC's first-time freshmen were advised into basic skills (pre-collegiate) coursework in Fall 2007.
- 20% (655 of 3244) of first-time freshmen actually enrolled in the advised coursework that semester.
- An additional 155 first-time freshmen placed into basic skills coursework without advisement (for a combined enrollment of 810).

To further describe the proficiencies of our incoming freshmen, over half (53%) of those students advised to enroll in pre-collegiate coursework were advised to take courses in **multiple subject areas**, as follows:

SCC First-Time Freshmen Advised to Enroll in Pre-Collegiate Coursework

# of Subject Areas Advised Into	Advised into Pre-Collegiate Coursework (n=1148)
1 subject area	47%
2 subject areas	34%
3+ subject areas	19%

It is the primary intention of this report to analyze student performance and progress towards college-level coursework. For the purposes of this report, all subsequent analyses will be limited to the student population who actually enrolled in basic skills courses during the Fall 2007 semester at SCC (n=810).

Enrollment in Pre-Collegiate Courses at SCC

For the purposes of this study, and to understand the effectiveness of current basic skills coursework at SCC, data for students who actually enrolled into these pre-collegiate courses (**regardless of advisement**) have been analyzed. Those data are as follows:

- 25% (810 of 3244) of SCC's first-time freshmen (Fall 2007) enrolled in at least one pre-collegiate course.
- The majority of pre-collegiate students enrolled in only one basic skills course (62%); 28% took two courses, and 10% took three or more pre-collegiate courses in their first semester of college.
- 85% of basic skills students enrolled in math, 41% enrolled in English, 10% enrolled in reading, and 5% enrolled in ACE pre-collegiate coursework.

of First-Time Freshmen Enrolled in Pre-Collegiate Coursework, Fall 2007 N=810

Total	Count	Percent
1 Subject Area	502	62%
2 Subject Area	224	28%
3+ Subject Area	84	10%
Subject Area		
ACE	51	6%
English	335	41%
Math	686	85%
Reading	84	10%

Overall, the success rate (A,B,C, or credit) of students enrolled in pre-collegiate courses was 57%. More than one-fifth (21%) withdrew from their courses.

- The discipline with highest success rate was ACE at 73%, the lowest was math at 52%.
- Withdrawal rates were spread evenly across the four disciplines, ranging from 18% to 23%.

Grade Distribution of SCC Pre-Collegiate Courses, Fall 2007

Pre-Collegiate Course	Course Success					Success Rate	Course Non-Success			Non-Completer	
	# Grades Rec'd	A	B	C	CR		D	F	NC	I	W
ACE 052	17	6	2	5		76%		2			2
ACE 053	18	3	5	4		67%		2			4
ACE 093	19	10	5	2		89%					2
ACE 096	2	1	1			100%					
ACE 102	20		4	9		65%		1			6
ACE 116	2		1			50%	1				
ACE N42	11				7	64%			1		3
ACE N43	11				8	73%					3
ACE Total	100	20	18	20	15	73%	1	5	1	0	20
English 061	212	25	53	54	1	63%	18	16		1	45
English N50	40	5	8	11		60%		10			6
English N60	84	18	25	16	1	71%	3	9			12
English Total	336	48	86	81	2	65%	21	35	0	1	63
Math 060	258	18	36	50		40%	27	50			77
Math 080	195	20	32	50		52%	26	27	1		39
Math N05	13				9	69%			1		3
Math N06	63	6	8	15		46%	7	13			14
Math N48	162	33	35	44		69%	14	15			21
Math Total	691	77	111	159	9	52%	74	105	2	0	154
Reading 096	49	5	7	11		47%	8	5			13
Reading 097	35	2	9	14		71%	1	5			4
Reading Total	84	7	16	25	0	57%	9	10	0	0	17
All Pre-Collegiate	1211	152	231	285	26	57%	105	155	3	1	254

Semester-to-Semester Persistence

Another measure of success is the length of time students continue (persist) in college. In a comparison of those enrolled in pre-collegiate courses versus those not enrolled in pre-collegiate courses, those enrolled in any level of pre-collegiate courses persisted at higher rates than those who are not. Additionally,

- Fall 2007 first-time freshmen enrolled in pre-collegiate courses persisted to subsequent semesters at a high rate: 83% to a second semester, 70% to a 3rd semester, and 64% to a 4th semester. Persistence rates were even higher for pre-collegiate students who were successful in at least one pre-collegiate course in their first semester.
- Fall 2007 first-time freshmen who were **not** enrolled in pre-collegiate courses persisted at rates of 56 % to a 2nd semester, 40% to a 3rd semester and 34% to a 4th semester. But, these include all freshmen, the majority of whom had educational goals of “employment courses” and “vocational certificates.”
- Semester-to-semester persistence rates by those who had successful pre-collegiate coursework were spread evenly across the four disciplines (ranging from 95% to 66%).

Semester to Semester Persistence Comparison of Those Enrolled in Pre-Collegiate Courses vs. Not Enrolled in Pre-Collegiate Courses Fall 2007 First-Time Freshmen

	N	2 nd Semester	3 rd Semester	4 th Semester
First-time Freshmen Not Enrolled in Pre-Collegiate Courses	2434	56%	40%	34%
First-time Freshmen Enrolled in a Pre-Collegiate Course	810	83%	70%	64%
Successful in at Least 1 Pre-Collegiate Course	504	91%	78%	73%
Successful in ACE Pre-Collegiate Course	41	95%	73%	66%
Successful in English Pre-Collegiate Course	216	91%	79%	76%
Successful in Math Pre-Collegiate Course	351	92%	80%	74%
Successful in Reading Pre-Collegiate Course	48	94%	85%	71%

Performance in Concurrent College-Level Coursework

- 717 of 810 pre-collegiate first-time freshmen (Fall 2007) were concurrently enrolled in college-level courses (defined as 100+ and transferrable to four-year universities) during their first semester in college.
- First-time freshmen pre-collegiate students concurrently enrolled in 178 different college-level courses, ranging from the arts to science and English courses. The top 12 courses taken by pre-collegiate students are listed below.
- Pre-collegiate first-time freshmen had slightly lower success rates in college-level courses than did those not enrolled in a pre-collegiate course (57% vs. 61%).

College-Level Courses Concurrently Enrolled in by Pre-Collegiate Students (First-time Freshmen), Fall 2007

Top 12 College-Level Courses	Count	Percent
English 101	270	33%
Counseling 116	167	21%
Psychology 100	105	13%
Political Science 101	66	8%
Criminal Justice 101	49	6%
Biology 109	43	5%
Television/Video Comm. 104	43	5%
Communication 100	40	5%
Sociology 100	40	5%
Art 100	38	5%
Exercise Science 131	37	5%
Music 101	37	5%
Total # of Pre-Collegiate Students Enrolled	717	

Comparison of Grades Received in College-Level Courses Pre-Collegiate Students vs. Non-Pre-Collegiate Students (First-time Freshmen), Fall 2007

	# of Grades Rec'd	Course Success				Success Rate	Course Non-Success			W
		A	B	C	CR		D	F	NC	
Pre-Collegiate Students										
ACE	31	4	2	3	5	45%	2	1	2	12
English	607	83	11	11	8	53%	68	81	7	12
Math	149	21	31	29	28	57%	12	19	9	31
Reading	75	8	10	8	4	40%	9	13	0	23
Total	176	25	36	34	32	57%	15	23	13	36
Non-Pre-Collegiate Students	189	39	37	35	29	61%	11	21	13	40

Demographics and Student Characteristics

- The proportion of students who enrolled in pre-collegiate coursework was similar in terms of gender and ethnicity. However, far greater numbers of young adults enrolled in basic skills; most (96%) were 21 years of age or younger.
- Females enrolled in pre-collegiate reading coursework far outnumbered males two-to-one.
- By far, the largest group of students enrolled in pre-collegiate coursework intended to transfer to a four-year college (50%).

First-Time Freshmen Demographics by Pre-Collegiate/Basic Skills Enrollment, Fall 2007

	Not Enrolled in a Pre-Collegiate Course (n=2,434)		Enrolled in a Pre-Collegiate Course (unduplicated) (n=810)		Pre-Collegiate Course Enrollment by Subject Area							
					Enrolled in ACE Pre-Coll. Courses (n=51)		Enrolled in Math Pre-Coll. Courses (n=686)		Enrolled in English Pre-Coll. Courses (n=335)		Enrolled in Reading Pre-Coll. Courses (n=84)	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Gender												
Male	1754	72%	372	46%	21	41%	313	46%	160	48%	28	33%
Female	680	28%	438	54%	30	59%	373	54%	175	52%	56	67%
Ethnicity												
African-American	64	3%	14	2%	1	2%	10	1%	6	2%	1	1%
Asian	175	7%	58	7%	8	16%	40	6%	25	7%	4	5%
Latino	1266	52%	360	44%	40	78%	299	44%	168	50%	62	74%
Caucasian	727	30%	322	40%	0	0%	290	42%	115	34%	16	19%
Other	94	4%	42	5%	1	2%	36	5%	15	4%	0	0%
Decline to state	108	4%	14	2%	1	2%	11	2%	6	2%	1	1%
Age												
17 and under	260	11%	143	18%	10	20%	122	18%	55	16%	11	13%
18-21	939	39%	632	78%	34	67%	541	79%	268	80%	70	83%
22-29	529	22%	19	2%	3	6%	14	2%	7	2%	3	4%
30-39	359	15%	12	1%	3	6%	7	1%	4	1%	0	0%
40 and over	347	14%	4	<1%	1	2%	2	0%	1	0%	0	0%
Educational Goal												
Vocational Cert.	709	29%	13	2%	1	2%	9	1%	5	1%	2	2%
Employment Crse	419	17%	81	10%	3	6%	68	10%	30	9%	8	10%
Transfer	584	24%	409	50%	21	41%	253	37%	166	50%	40	48%
AA/AS Degree	73	3%	38	5%	5	10%	34	5%	17	5%	6	7%
Personal Interest	77	3%	10	1%	1	2%	3	0%	6	2%	1	1%
Improve basic sk.	14	1%	3	0%	0	0%	2	0%	3	1%	1	1%
Maintain License	238	10%	13	2%	0	0%	12	2%	6	2%	1	1%
Undecided	229	9%	182	22%	16	31%	158	23%	75	22%	22	26%
Other	91	4%	61	8%	4	8%	47	7%	27	8%	3	4%