

Santa Ana College
An Analysis of Associate Degree Graduates' Completion
of the Reading Proficiency Requirement (RPR)

May 2015

The Santa Ana College (SAC) faculty established through the curriculum review process that students should be able to read at a minimum level of proficiency before they are awarded an associate's degree. There are a variety of ways in which students can demonstrate this requirement with the following options:

- Option #1: Satisfactory score on the SAC **Reading Placement Test**, or
- Option #2: Satisfactory score on the SAC **Reading Department Test**, or
- Option #3: Successful completion of any **reading course** at the 100 level or above, OR
- Option #4: A "C" grade or better in 9 units of **general education courses** for the Associate Degree, with 3 units in Areas A: Natural Sciences and 3 units in each of the Area B: Social and Behavioral Sciences:
 - A. **Natural Sciences (minimum 3 units):** Anthropology 101, 1011L, Astronomy 109, 110/110H, 140, Biology 109/109H, 109L, 111, 115, 149, 177, 200, 211, 239, 259, Chemistry 109, 119, 209, 210, 219/219H, Earth Science 110/110H, 115, 150/150H, Environmental Studies 140, 200, 259, Geography 101, 101L, Geology 101, 101L, 140, 150/150H, 201, Physical Science 117, 118, Physics 109, 210, 217, 279, Science 200
 - B. **Social and Behavioral Sciences (minimum 6 units):** 1. *American Institutions (minimum 3 units):* History 118, 120 or 120H, 121/121H, 122, Political Science 101/101H. 2. *Social Science Elective (minimum 3 units):* Anthropology 100/100H, Criminal Justice 101 Economics 120, 121, Geography 100/100H, 102 /102H, History 101/101H, 102/102H, Human Development 107, 110, Political Science 101/101H, Psychology 100/100H, Sociology 100/100H, or
- Option #5: Completion of all requirements in the California State University General Education Breadth (CSU GE) plan or the Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) plan, or
- Option #6: Transcripts showing successful completion of a qualifying reading course/placement test, a bachelor's degree, an Associate of Arts or Associate of Science degree from a regionally accredited California institution within a ten-year period of finishing major requirements at the college.

The RSCCD Research Department analyzed student records to understand the methods by which SAC associate degree earners were able to meet the reading requirement for their degree. Many of the graduates met the RPR by more than one methods; however, for the purpose of this study, all records were sorted by the first method by which the RPR was met (in the order listed above).

Findings:

Of the 4,196 students who earned an Associate Degree at Santa Ana College during the 2011-12 through 2013-14 academic years. In the order that the study was conducted, graduates completed their reading requirement in the following methods:

- Nearly half (49%) of those graduates met the reading requirement by successfully passing the college’s Reading Comprehension Placement Test (CTEP) (option #1),
- A small portion (2%) successfully passed the Reading Department test given to students once they are enrolled in reading classes to ensure proper placement (option #2),
- An additional one percent of the AA/AS degree earners completed the college-level reading course (Reading 100 or above) (option #3),
- Another quarter of the graduates fulfilled the reading proficiency by successfully completing the combination of minimum three-unit general education of natural sciences and minimum six-unit social and behavioral (option #4), and
- Finally, nearly a quarter of the graduates completed their reading requirement from other methods in which the Research Department does not have access, including completion of requirements in the California State University General Education Breadth (CSU GE) plan or the Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) plan (option #5) OR successful completion of a qualifying reading course/placement test or have already earned an Associate of Arts/Science or a Bachelors of Arts/Science degree at another institution (option #6).

**Santa Ana College
AA/AS Degree Graduates’ Completion of the
Reading Proficiency Requirement, 2011-12 through 2013-14**

AA/AS Degree Awarded	Reading Proficiency Requirement Met				
	Satisfactory Score on the Reading Placement Test	Satisfactory Score on the Reading Department Test	Successful Completion of a Reading Course (≥100)	Successful Completion of General Education Courses	Other*
2011-12 (n=1293)	44%	2%	1%	25%	28%
2012-13 (n=1373)	47%	2%	1%	26%	24%
2013-14 (n=1530)	55%	3%	1%	22%	19%
Three-Year Total n=4,196	49%	2%	1%	24%	23%

*Completion of CSU GE plan, the IGETC plan, successful completion of a qualifying reading course/placement test from a regionally accredited California institution, or completed AA/AS/BA at another institution (options #5 and #6).