Basic Skills: Effective Practices
Common to All Disciplines

Presenters:

• Ann Foster, English
• Tracey Jackson, Math
• Phyllis Johnson, ESL
• Karissa Moreno, College Skills
• Tad Wakefield, English
A Brief Overview

• Research in California tells us that 70-85% of entering community college students assess into basic skills courses in one or more areas.¹

• All instructors have a role and responsibility to help provide these students with the skills needed for them to reach their goals.

¹ The Research & Planning Group for California Community Colleges, July 2007 (second edition)
Some Pertinent Definitions

• Basic Skills:
  Those foundation skills in reading, writing, mathematics, and English as a Second Language, as well as learning skills and study skills, which are necessary for students to succeed in college-level work.
• Effective Practices:

A teaching and learning (or student support services) strategy that has been successful for students with basic skills needs.

• Student Success

Broadly defined, “Success” includes positive attitudes toward learning, specific skills such as time management or organization, social abilities and content knowledge.

‘It is the intent of the Legislature that each resident of California who has the capacity to benefit from higher education should have the opportunity to enroll in an institution of higher education. Once enrolled, each individual should have the opportunity to continue as long and as far as his/her capacity and motivation, as indicated by academic performance and commitment to educational advancement, will lead him/her to meet academic standards and institutional requirements.’ California Education Code Section 66201
Who are the Students with Basic Skills Needs?

• Recent high school graduates
• Adult students from the workforce
• Immigrant students
• First generation college students
• Students with learning disability
• Students scoring at a basic skills level on placement tests
SRJC Basic Skills Student Data

- **Ethnic Composition of Student Population**
  - Asian .................. 1,305 ...............3.6%
  - Black .................. 838 ...............2.3%
  - Filipino ................ 324 ...............0.9%
  - Hispanic/Latino .......... 6,667 ..........18.3%
  - Native American ....... 422 ...............1.2%
  - Pacific Islander ........ 203 ...............0.6%
  - White ................... 21,455 ..........58.8%
  - Other .................... 412 ...............1.1%
  - Unknown ................ 4,833 ..........13.3%

- **District Retention Rate**
  ......................... 75.8%

- **District Successful Completion Rate**
  ......................... 72.0%

---

2 SRJC Fact Book 2008 (Office of Institutional Research)
The percentage of Latinos in Sonoma County’s total population has increased recently. From 1970 to 2004*, the percentage of Latinos increased from 5% to 20.5%, and it is projected to continue increasing at a high rate.

Projections of Sonoma County’s 12th-grade enrollment indicate the high school class of 2019 will be 41.2% Latino.

---

3 SRJC Fact Book 2008 (Office of Institutional Research)
Why is it so important to reach these Basic Skills Students?

Figure 2. The Latina/o California Community College Pipeline, 2002-03

100
Latina/o First Time College Students

8
University of California

75
California Community College

17
California State University

7
Transfer

1
University of California

6
California State University

Source: California Postsecondary Education Commission 2004; see also Orelas and Solórzano 2004.
SRJC Mission Statement

Sonoma County Junior College District's Mission is to promote student learning throughout our diverse communities by increasing the knowledge, improving the skills, and enhancing the lives of those who participate in our programs and enroll in our courses.