

Basic Skills: Effective Practices Common to All Disciplines

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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 collegelevel 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

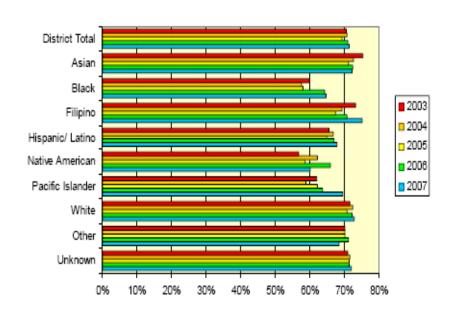
SRJC Basic Skills Student Data²

•	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	

• District Successful Completion Rate72.0%

.....75.8%

Successful Course Completion Rates by Ethnicity Fall 2003 – Fall 2007



² SRJC Fact Book 2008 (Office of Institutional Research)

SRJC Incoming Student Info³

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.

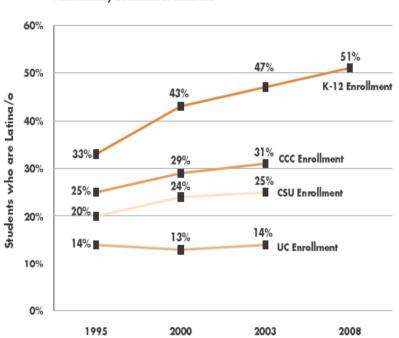


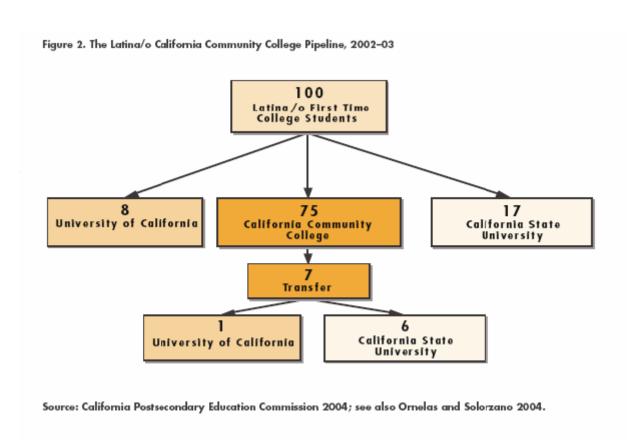
Figure 1. Percentage of Latina/o Students in Public K-12 Schools and Postsecondary Institutions in California

Source: Standardized data from California Community Colleges, Chancellor's Office 2007 (CCC Enrollment); California Department of Finance 2000 (K-12 Enrollment); and California Postsecondary Education Commission 2007 (CSU and UC Enrollment).

Note: K-12 projection data for 2003 and 2008 are from California Department of Finance 2000.

³ SRJC Fact Book 2008 (Office of Institutional Research)

Why is it so important to reach these Basic Skills Students?



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.