



FOOTHILL COLLEGE

Institutional Research and Planning

DATE: February 20, 2013

TO: Carolyn Holcroft, Instructor, Biological Sciences

FROM: Elaine Kuo, College Researcher

RE: Certificate Awards and Minimum Qualifications

Overview

Students earning a certificate in 2010-11 and 2011-12 were identified to determine how many successfully met the ENGL/ESLL and MATH minimum qualifications. Minimum qualifications could be met by either coursework or testing. Over half the students met minimum qualifications in ENGL/ESLL and MATH, with more students meeting MATH compared to ENGL/ESLL (Table 1). This finding may reflect math requirements in certain programs, such as those in the allied health fields. Meanwhile, the percentage of students meeting minimum qualifications increased between 2010-11 and 2011-12 by roughly 10%. If minimum qualifications were instituted in ENGL/ESLL and MATH, approximately 30%-40% of students who earned certificates between 2010-2012 would not have received these awards (150 students in 2010-11, 174 students in 2011-12).

Table 1. Meeting Minimum Qualifications among Certificates Awards, 2010-2012.

	<u>2010-11</u>		<u>2011-12</u>		<u>Change</u>	
	HC	Percent	HC	Percent	HC	Percent
Certificates Awarded	357	100%	570	100%	213	60%
ENGL/ESL met	233	65%	436	76%	203	11%
MATH met	242	68%	451	79%	209	11%
ENG/ESL and MATH	207	58%	396	69%	189	11%

Table 2 examines those students who met ENGL/ESLL minimum qualifications through either coursework or placement testing. About two-thirds to three-fourths of students are meeting minimum qualifications through coursework while roughly one-fifth (at least in 2011-12) meet the requirements based on testing alone. These are not mutually exclusive categories so some students would have met minimum qualifications through both coursework and testing. In fact, only four students in 2011-12 met ENGL/ESLL minimum qualifications by testing alone.

Table 2. Meeting ENGL/ESLL Minimum Qualifications among Certificate Awards, 2010-2012.

Meeting ENGL/ESLL	<u>2010-2011</u>		<u>2011-2012</u>	
	HC	% of Certificates	HC	% of Certificates
By Coursework	233	65%	432	76%
By Placement	3	1%	110	19%

Table 3 explores the number of students who met MATH minimum qualifications through either coursework or placement testing. About 70%-80% of students are meeting minimum qualifications through coursework while roughly one-quarter (at least in 2011-12) meet the requirements based on testing alone. These are not mutually exclusive categories so some students would have met minimum qualifications through both coursework and testing. In fact, only two students in 2010-11 and six in 2011-12 met MATH minimum qualifications by testing alone.

Table 3. Meeting MATH Minimum Qualifications among Certificate Awards, 2010-2012.

Meeting MATH	<u>2010-2011</u>		<u>2011-2012</u>	
	HC	% of Certificates	HC	% of Certificates
By Coursework	240	67%	445	78%
By Placement	14	4%	157	27%

Methodology

Students who successfully passed ENGL 1A and above, ESLL 26 or Math 105/108 and above with a grade of A, B, C or P OR who placed at these levels through testing were deemed to have met minimum qualifications. No limit was placed on the year in which students met minimum qualifications.

There were seven students who earned a certificate in both years. These students earned both a Counseling and Transfer Studies certificate, primarily related to IGETC and CSU Studies. Note that the numbers may not match the total number of certificates awarded per year because there were students who earned more than one certificate.

Source

FHDA IR&P, ODS [Student Awards, Student Course, Test]