

# MJC Research Brief

## Key Findings from 5-Year MJC Study of English 49 and English 50 Course Success and Retention Rates, Initial Study of English 45 Course Success Trends

Scott Kerlin, MJC Office of Research and Planning

January 2017

### Overview

In December and January 2017 a major research study of **English 49** and **English 50** course activity at MJC was conducted with the objective of measuring patterns in student success and student retention at the course level for the semesters Fall 2011 through Spring 2016. Data measures include:

- (1) **Course Enrollment Trends**—Term by Term; 5-Year Average and 2-Year Average
- (2) **Course Success Rates Trends**—Term by Term; 5-year Average and 2-Year Average
- (3) **Course Success Rates by Race/Ethnicity**—Term by Term; 5-year Average and 2-Year Average
- (4) **Course Retention Rates**—Term by Term; 5-year Average and 2-Year Average
- (5) **Course Success Rates Gaps**—Term by Term; 5-year Average and 2-Year Average

Additionally, the above data were reported for Fall 2016 in **English 49**, **English 50**, and the new **English 45** course.

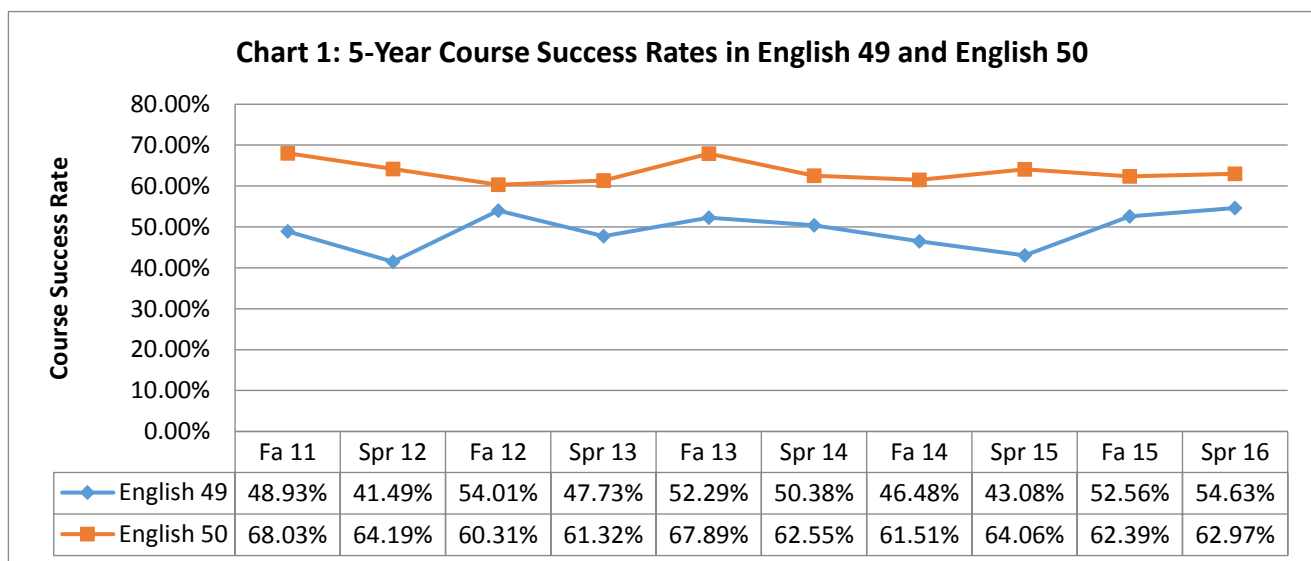
### Selected Findings

**I. Course Success Rates for English 49 and English 50:** Average 5-year success rate for **English 49** was **49.1%** for the period Fall 2011 through Spring 2016, while the rate for **English 50** at **64.0%** during the same period.

\* For **English 49**, the 2-year success rate average (Fall 2014-Spring 2016) and the 5-year average for Fall 2011-Spring 2016 showed a consistent average of just over **49%** success, but the semester-by-semester success rate significantly improved between Spring 2015 (**43.1%**) and Spring 2016 (**54.6%**).

\* For **English 50**, the 2-year average Fall 2014-Spring 2016 stayed relatively consistent from term to term, peaking at **64%** in **Spring 2015** and equaling **63%** in Spring 2016.

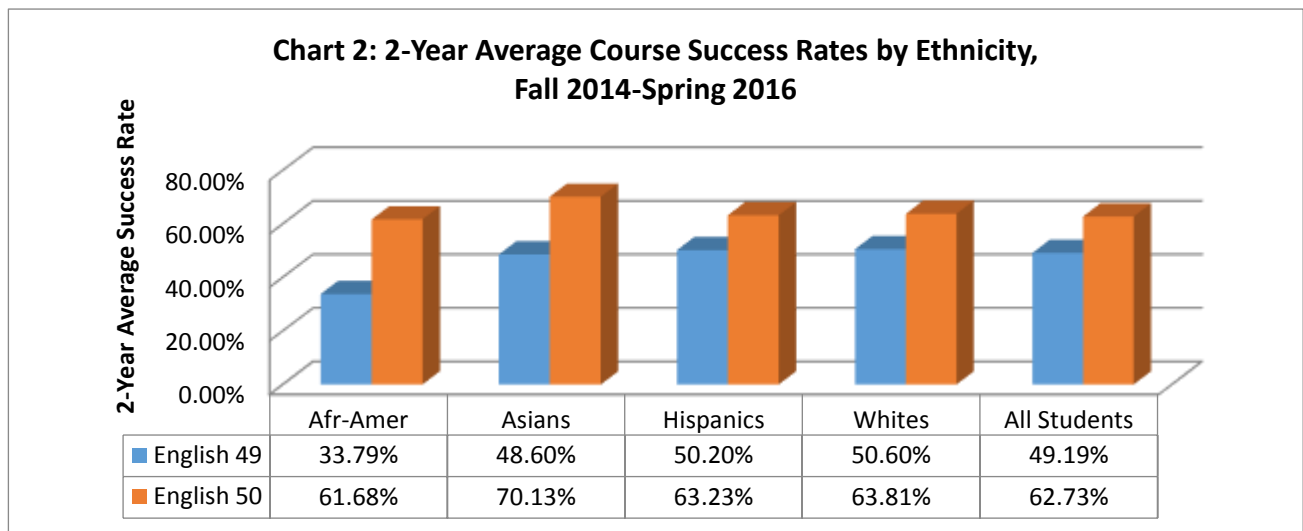
**Chart 1** displays the overall patterns in student success rates at the course level for the period Fall 2011 through Spring 2016.



**II. Course Success Rates by Race/Ethnicity:** Success rate differences were measured for **African-American, Asian, Hispanic,** and **White** students across **English 49** and **English 50** and overall equity gaps were calculated.

\* The average 5-year success rate gap (Highest Ethnicity vs. Lowest Ethnicity) for **English 49** was **19.6%** for Fall 2011 through Spring 2016, with **Asians** having the highest average rate (**52.6%**) and **African-Americans** having the lowest average rate (**33.0%**). Average 2-year success rate gap (Highest Ethnicity vs. Lowest Ethnicity 2-year average) for **English 49** was **16.8%** for Fall 2014 through Spring 2016.

\* For **English 50**, there was a significant improvement in average success rate gap for the most recent two years (**8.5%**), compared with the 5-year average gap of **26.3%**. **Asian** students posted the highest success rates in both the 2-year and 5-year data, typically scoring an average above 70%. **African-Americans**, while scoring lowest during most semesters between Fall 2011 and Spring 2016, showed significant improvements in the most recent two years.



**III. Fall 2016 Course Success Rates Measures:** For Fall 2016, comparative data was gathered for courses **English 49** and **English 50**, as well as the new **English 45** course “Accelerated Reading, Writing, & Reasoning”.

<u>Fall 2016 Course</u>	<u>1<sup>st</sup> Census Enrollment</u>	<u>Course Success %</u>	<u>Course Retention %</u>	<u>Section Gap %</u>	<u>Highest Sect %</u>	<u>Lowest Sect %</u>	<u>Ethnicity Gap %</u>	<u>Highest Ethn %</u>	<u>Lowest Ethn%</u>
<b>English 45</b>	360	<b>56.11%</b>	78.33%	<b>22.92%</b>	66.67%	43.75%	<b>35.42%</b>	68.8% (Asian)	33.3% (Af-Am)
<b>English 49</b>	358	<b>70.95%</b>	89.39%	<b>42.59%</b>	83.33%	40.74%	<b>9.80%</b>	76.5% (Asian)	66.7% (Af-Am)
<b>English 50</b>	1,099	<b>67.70%</b>	84.44%	<b>57.30%</b>	90.63%	33.33%	<b>15.74%</b>	77.5% (Asian)	61.8% (Af-Am)

\* For **English 45**, the Fall 2016 success rate was **56.1%**, which exceeded the Fall 2011-Spring 2016 5-year average success rate for **English 49 (49%)** by nearly **7%**. **English 45** students from the Fall 2016 cohort will continue to be tracked during Spring and Summer 2017 to determine subsequent rate of persistence into and completion of college English within the first year.

\* Success rates for **English 49** and **English 50** during Fall 2016 exceeded the average 5-year and 2-year success rates for each of these courses. **English 49** showed nearly **71%** success rate (compared with the overall averages of **49%** in previous years)--while **English 50** showed nearly a **68%** success rate, which is more than **4%** improvement over the 5-year and 2-year averages from previous years.

\* In all three courses, **Asian** students had the highest success rates in Fall 2016 while **African-American** students had the lowest rates. Ethnicity gap was highest in **English 45 (35.4%)** and lowest in **English 49 (9.8%)**. The **English 49** gap is a significant improvement over the average 5-year and 2-year gaps for the 2011-12 through 2015-16 academic years.