

Research Overview

[DRAFT-December 16, 2016]

5-Year Study--Patterns in MJC English 49 and English 50 Course Retention, Success, and Within-Course Success Rates Gaps, Fall 2011-Spring 2016

Scott Kerlin, MJC Office of Research and Planning

Introduction

In December 2016 a major study of English 49 and 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 for this report was obtained through the Crystal Report in Datatel "Student Success and Retention", which is the standard MJC internal data report for tracking course success rates and retention rates, along with CCCCO Datamart Basic Skills Progress Tracker and internal data from the MJC Office of Research and Planning.

The emphasis in this study is on courses **English 49** and **English 50**. These courses do not transfer to 4-year institutions for the purpose of fulfilling college-level mathematics requirements. *In January 2017, data from the new **English 45** course along with data from Fall 2016 course outcomes in **English 49** and **English 50** will be included in this report.*

I: Trends: English 49 and English 50 Patterns in Enrollment, Course-Level Success Rates and Retention Rates, and Course Success Rate Gaps

(1) Enrollment: Overall average course enrollment during the researched periods was greatest in **English 50** (Basic English Skills), with a 2-year figure of **1007** (Fall 2014-Spring 2016) and a 5-year figure of **870** (Fall 2011 through Spring 2016). **English 49** (Basic Composition & Reading) had a 2-year average of **602** and a 5-year average of **870**. The census enrollment counts (Fall 2011 through Spring 2016) for these courses were the following:

TABLE 1

*****1st Census Course Enrollment*****

<u>Course</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Fall 2014</u>	<u>Spring 2015</u>	<u>Fall 2015</u>	<u>Spring 2016</u>	<u>2-Yr. Avg</u>
English 49	Basic English Skills	611	585	586	626	602
English 50	Basic Comp & Reading	943	985	1069	1029	1007

*****1st Census Course Enrollment*****

<u>Course</u>	<u>Fall 2011</u>	<u>Spring 2012</u>	<u>Fall 2012</u>	<u>Spring 2013</u>	<u>Fall 2013</u>	<u>Spring 2014</u>	<u>5-Yr. Avg</u>
English 49	609	523	374	352	453	530	525
English 50	829	807	650	773	847	769	870

(2) Course Success Rates: Success rates at the course level are defined as the percentage of students enrolled at first-census who achieve a grade of “A”, “B”, “C”, or “Pass” in the course. 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. Rates for all courses were the following:

TABLE 2

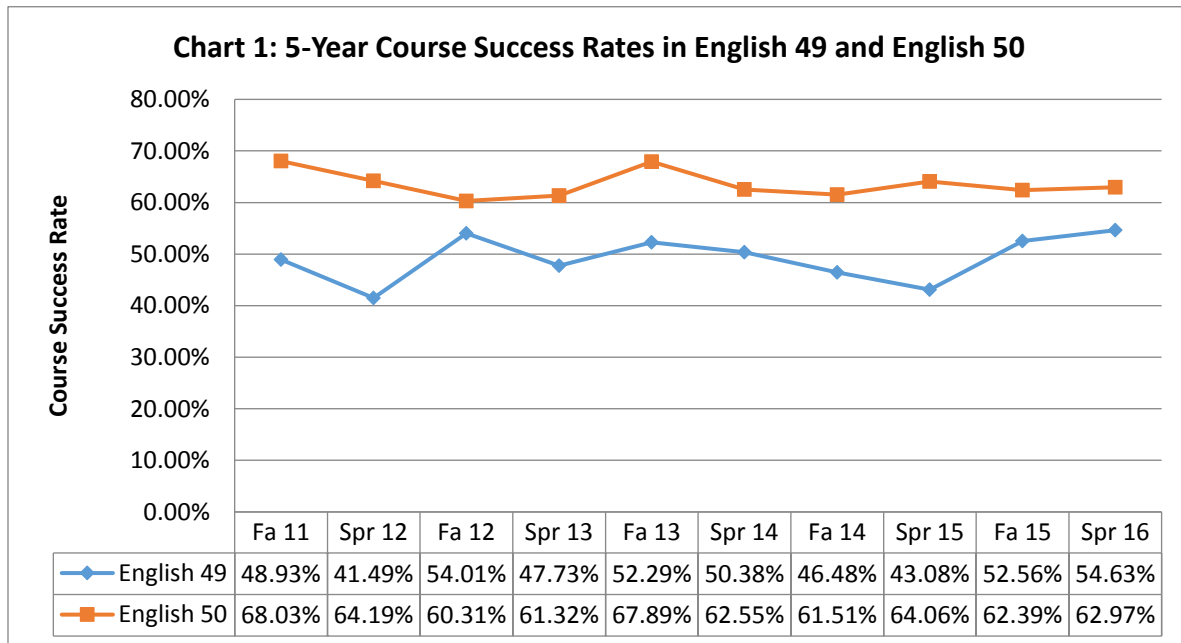
*****Course Success Rates*****

<u>Course</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Fall 2014</u>	<u>Spring 2015</u>	<u>Fall 2015</u>	<u>Spring 2016</u>	<u>2-Yr. Avg</u>
English 49	Basic English Skills	46.48%	43.08%	52.56%	54.63%	49.19%
English 50	Basic Comp & Reading	61.51%	64.06%	62.39%	62.97%	62.73%

*****Course Success Rates*****

<u>Course</u>	<u>Fall 2011</u>	<u>Spring 2012</u>	<u>Fall 2012</u>	<u>Spring 2013</u>	<u>Fall 2013</u>	<u>Spring 2014</u>	<u>5-Yr. Avg</u>
English 49	48.93%	41.49%	54.01%	47.73%	52.29%	50.38%	49.14%
English 50	68.03%	64.19%	60.31%	61.32%	67.89%	62.55%	64.04%

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



(3) 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**. 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, while for **English 50** it was **8.5%**. Rates for both courses during this 2-year period along with 5-year trend data appear on the next page.

TABLE 3

*****Course Success Rates*****

<u>Course</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Fall 2014</u>	<u>Spring 2015</u>	<u>Fall 2015</u>	<u>Spring 2016</u>	<u>2-Yr. Avg</u>
English 49	All Students	46.48%	43.08%	52.56%	54.63%	49.19%
	African-Americans	30.43%	14.29%	45.00%	45.45%	33.79%
	Asians	47.73%	44.44%	51.11%	51.11%	48.60%
	Hispanics	45.86%	44.00%	51.70%	59.23%	50.20%
	Whites	49.12%	47.89%	54.61%	50.76%	50.60%
	GAP (High to Low)					
English 50	All Students	61.51%	64.06%	62.39%	62.97%	62.73%
	African-Americans	60.61%	58.06%	56.67%	71.43%	61.68%
	Asians	65.85%	66.67%	74.00%	74.00%	70.13%
	Hispanics	60.70%	63.24%	62.30%	66.67%	63.23%
	Whites	61.20%	64.98%	61.96%	67.11%	63.81%
	GAP (High to Low)					

*****Course Success Rates*****

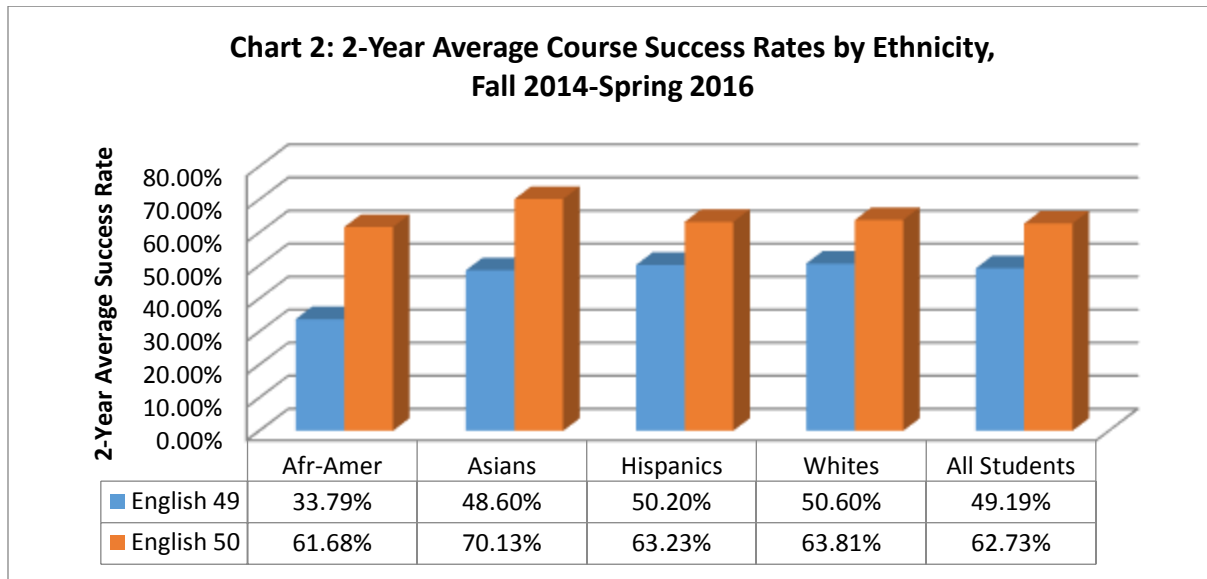
<u>Course</u>	<u>Ethn</u>	<u>Fall 2011</u>	<u>Spring 2012</u>	<u>Fall 2012</u>	<u>Spring 2013</u>	<u>Fall 2013</u>	<u>Spring 2014</u>	<u>5-Yr. Avg</u>
English 49	All	48.93%	41.49%	54.01%	47.73%	52.29%	50.38%	49.14%
	AfAm	18.18%	32.43%	42.86%	34.78%	46.15%	20.59%	33.02%
	Asian	56.52%	47.83%	44.44%	70.83%	59.26%	52.38%	52.57%
	Hispan	48.57%	40.80%	55.21%	47.22%	54.58%	52.65%	49.98%
	White	50.31%	45.58%	54.29%	47.42%	59.09%	49.23%	50.86%
GAP (High-Low)								19.55%
English 50	All	64.10%	65.24%	57.76%	66.21%	58.08%	53.82%	62.53%
	AfAm	46.88%	41.18%	50.00%	37.08%	55.26%	35.90%	46.13%
	Asian	71.43%	66.67%	75.61%	76.32%	81.82%	72.09%	72.45%
	Hispan	67.73%	61.93%	57.31%	59.95%	65.41%	58.03%	62.33%
	White	69.29%	67.65%	63.55%	62.20%	70.00%	72.22%	66.02%
GAP (High-Low)								26.32%

Overall equity gaps among **African-American, Asian, Hispanic, and White** students for the 5-year period Fall 2011 through Spring 2016 were calculated for **English 49** and **English 50**. For each course, the gap

between highest 5-year average ethnicity and lowest 5-year average ethnicity was computed.

Average 5-year success rate gap (Highest Ethnicity vs. Lowest Ethnicity) for **English 49** was **26.3%** for Fall 2011 through Spring 2016, followed by **English 50**, at **19.6%**.

Chart 2 displays the variations in student success rates by major ethnic group at MJC at the course level, averaged for the 2-year period Fall 2014 through Spring 2016.



(4) Course Retention Rates: Retention rates at the course level are defined as the percentage of students enrolled at first-census who remain enrolled in the course regardless of whether they pass or don't pass. Average 5-year retention rate for **English 49** was **82.0%** for the period Fall 2011 through Spring 2016, and for **English 50** it was **84.4%**. Rates for all courses were the following:

TABLE 4

*****Course Retention Rates*****

<u>Course</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Fall 2014</u>	<u>Spring 2015</u>	<u>Fall 2015</u>	<u>Spring 2016</u>	<u>2-Yr. Avg</u>
English 49	Basic English Skills	83.47%	83.08%	82.76%	87.21%	84.13%
English 50	Basic Comp & Reading	84.20%	81.93%	89.25%	86.90%	85.57%

*****Course Retention Rates*****

<u>Course</u>	<u>Fall 2011</u>	<u>Spring 2012</u>	<u>Fall 2012</u>	<u>Spring 2013</u>	<u>Fall 2013</u>	<u>Spring 2014</u>	<u>5-Yr. Avg</u>
English 49	82.10%	71.89%	85.03%	76.70%	85.87%	82.08%	82.02%
English 50	86.13%	82.53%	82.15%	81.63%	87.25%	82.44%	84.44%

(5) Course Success Rates Gap Analysis: Overall success rates at the course level (reported above) represent the average of success rates for all sections of each course that is offered in the specific semester measured (in this case, Fall 2011 through Spring 2016).

In order to measure the degree of variation in course success rates across the range of sections offered in a given semester, an additional calculation was created for this report: the **Course Success Rates Gap Analysis**.

For example, the course **English 50** (Basic Composition & Reading) had **31 sections** with **948** enrolled students in Fall 2014, **34 sections** with **985** enrolled students in Spring 2015, **35 sections** with **1,069** enrolled students in Fall 2015, and **36 sections** with **1,029** enrolled students in Spring 2016. The **Success Rate Gap Analysis** calculates the difference between the course section with the highest success rate and the section with the lowest success rate.

Overall, **English 49** had a 5-year average Success Rate Gap at **48.3%**, and English 50 had a 5-year rate of **41.9%**. During the most recent 2 years (Fall 2014 through Spring 2016), the Success Rates gaps were **58%** for **English 49** and nearly **60%** for English **50**. Rates for all courses were the following:

TABLE 5

*****Course Success Rates Gaps*****

<u>Course</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Fall 2014</u>	<u>Spring 2015</u>	<u>Fall 2015</u>	<u>Spring 2016</u>	<u>2-Yr. Avg</u>
English 49	Basic English Skills	51.62%	60.32%	63.07%	56.78%	57.95%
English 50	Basic Comp & Reading	61.43%	63.91%	60.32%	54.09%	59.94%

*****Course Success Rates Gaps*****

<u>Course</u>	<u>Fall 2011</u>	<u>Spring 2012</u>	<u>Fall 2012</u>	<u>Spring 2013</u>	<u>Fall 2013</u>	<u>Spring 2014</u>	<u>5-Yr. Avg</u>
English 49	38.34%	15.40%	12.35%	23.61%	13.11%	32.06%	48.26%
English 50	24.55%	26.47%	25.61%	39.24%	26.56%	36.32%	41.85%

II: Key Findings from this Study

(will be completed in mid-January, when Fall 2016 data for English 45, 49, and 50 are available in DataTel for inclusion in this report)