Achieving the Dream

Fact Sheet # 17a   Gatekeeper Course Outcomes - Fall 2008 Cohort
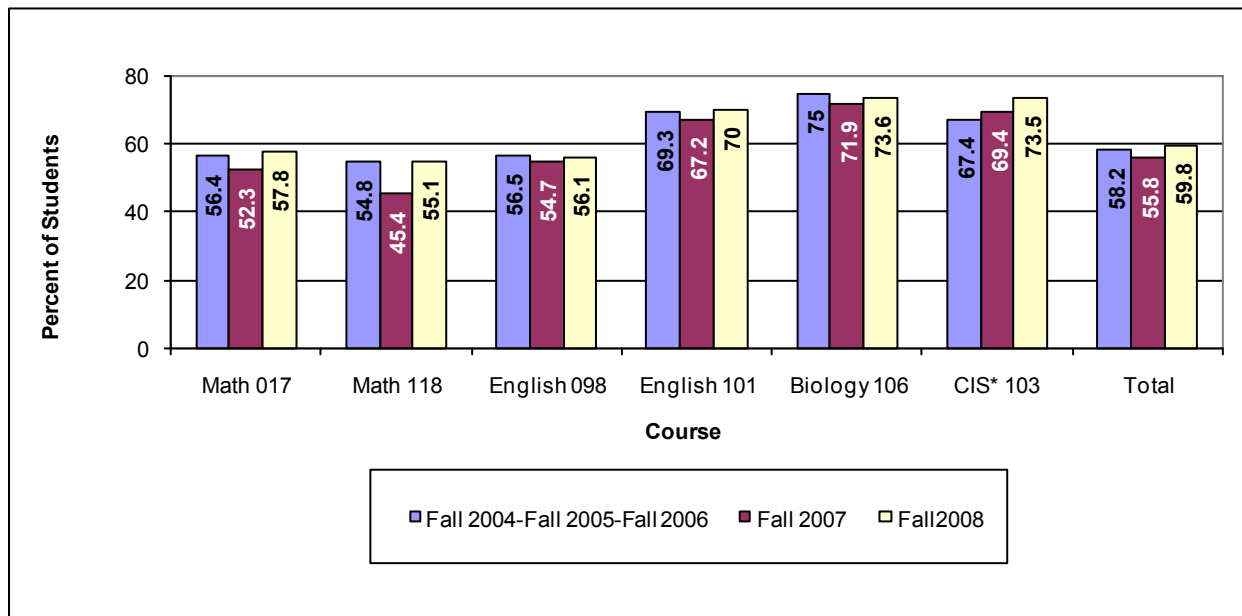
Introduction

One of the Achieving the Dream (AtD) objectives is to increase the percentage of students who success-fully complete gatekeeper courses. The AtD initiative defines gatekeeper courses as *first level curricular courses that students must pass before enrolling in more advanced courses in their major field.* Academic Affairs identified the six gatekeeper courses that are featured in this Fact Sheet.

One measure of the effectiveness of CCP's AtD initiatives is tracking student success over time in the six CCP gatekeeper courses. The purpose of this Fact Sheet is to assess the success of students in fall 2008 gatekeeper courses by comparing their course outcomes with the outcomes achieved by their predecessors. The cohorts represented in the following graphs are based on first-time CCP students in fall terms.

Success in Gatekeeper Courses

Final course grades of A, B, C and P are considered successful course outcomes. The values represented in Figure 1 represent the percentage of successful first- time CCP students in each of the six gatekeeper courses. Overall, success rates across all gatekeeper courses were higher in fall 2008 than in the preceding fall terms. Nearly 60% of the gatekeeper course grades awarded to the fall 2008 cohort were grades of A, B, C or P.

**Figure 1: Percent of Fall First-Time CCP Students
Passing Gatekeeper Courses With A, B, C or P Grade**

Percent of Students

Course	Fall 2004-Fall 2005-Fall 2006	Fall 2007	Fall 2008
Math 017	56.4	52.3	57.8
Math 118	54.8	45.4	55.1
English 098	56.5	54.7	56.1
English 101	69.3	67.2	70
Biology 106	75	71.9	73.6
CIS* 103	67.4	69.4	73.5
Total	58.2	55.8	59.8

* Computer Information Systems

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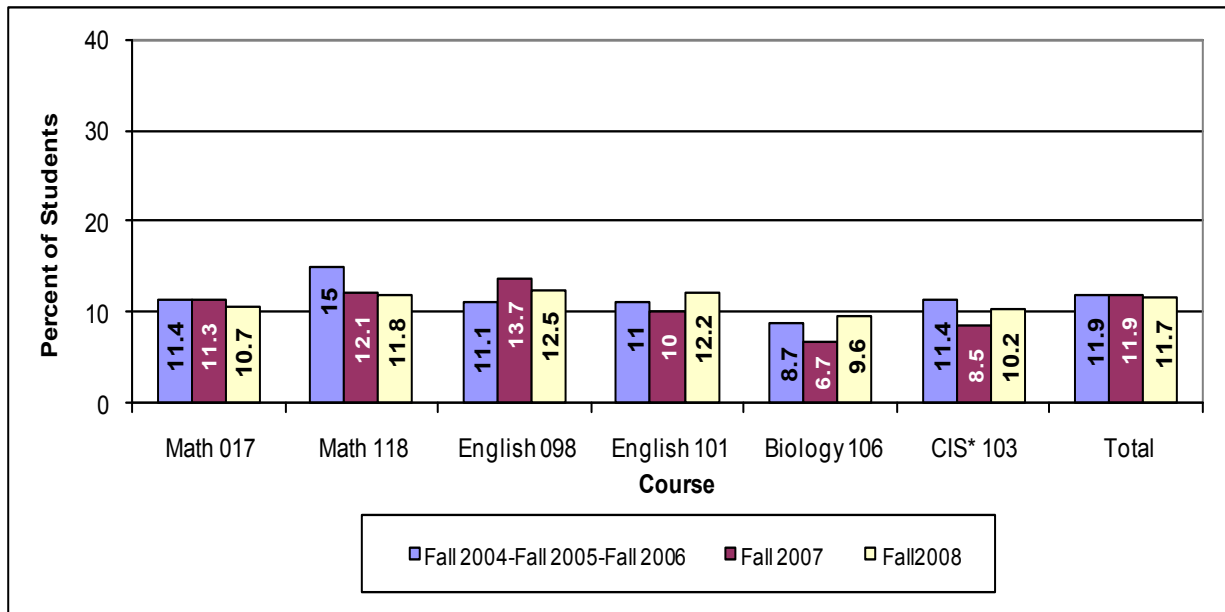
Success in Gatekeeper Courses

The increase in fall 2008 course success rates was across all gatekeeper courses and was most pronounced in Math 118. With the exception of Math 118, success rates tended to be greater in college-level courses than in developmental courses, ranging from 70% in English 101 to just under 74% in both Biology 106 and Computer Information Systems 103.

Completion of Gatekeeper Courses

The overall course withdraw rate was slightly lower in the fall 2008 gatekeeper courses (11.7%) than in previous fall semesters (Figure 2). Individual withdrawal rates were slightly lower in English 098, Math 017 and Math 118. Fall 2008 course withdraw rates were higher in English 101, Biology 106 and Computer Information Systems 103.

**Figure 2: Percent of Fall First-Time CCP Students
Withdrawing From Gatekeeper Courses
Figure 2:**

Course	Fall 2004-Fall 2005-Fall 2006	Fall 2007	Fall 2008
Math 017	11.4	11.3	10.7
Math 118	15	12.1	11.8
English 098	11.1	13.7	12.5
English 101	11	10	12.2
Biology 106	8.7	6.7	9.6
CIS* 103	11.4	8.5	10.2
Total	11.9	11.9	11.7

* Computer Information Systems