Introduction

One of the Achieving the Dream (AtD) objectives is to increase the percentage of students who successfully 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.
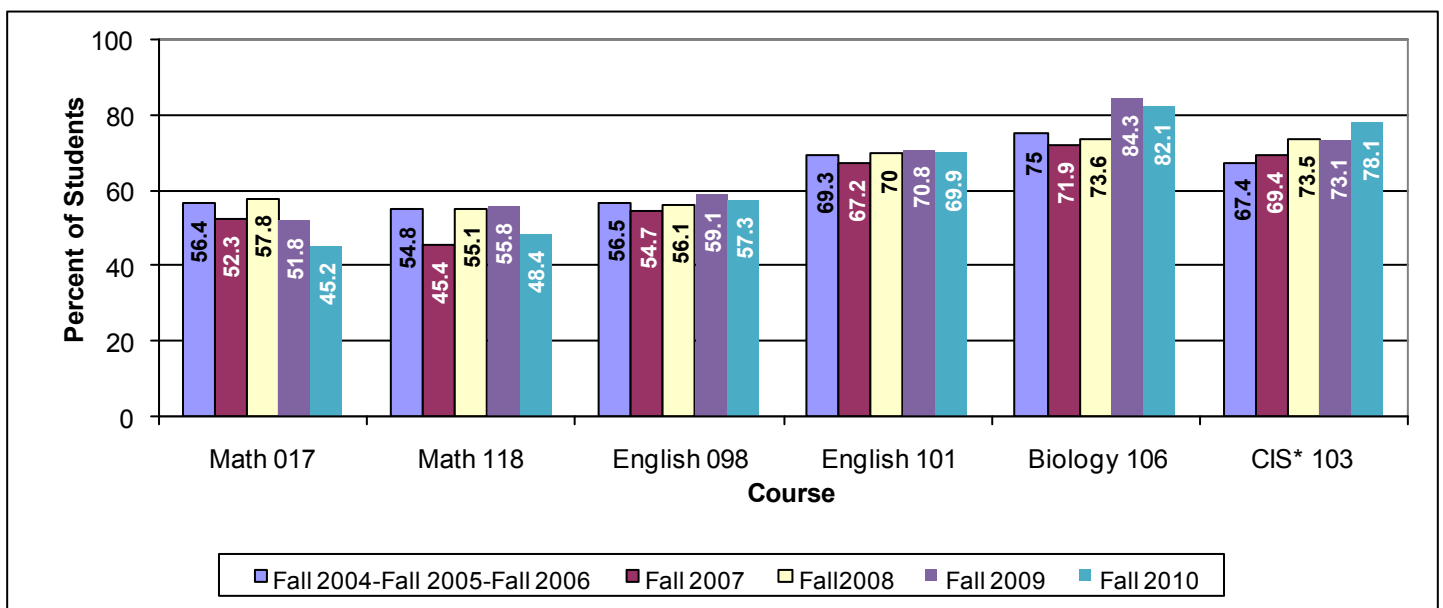
A measure of the effectiveness of CCP's AtD initiatives is tracking student success over time in the six CCP gatekeeper courses. The purpose of this Fact Sheet is to assess the success of students in fall 2010 gatekeeper courses by comparing their course outcomes with the outcomes achieved by their predecessors. 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 that appear in Figure 1 represent the percentage of successful first- time CCP students in each of the six gatekeeper courses. Success rates continue to be highest in Biology 106 and the percentage of successful grades awarded in English 101 and CIS 103 continue to be higher than in either Math course or English 098.

With the exception of CIS 103, success rates in gatekeeper courses declined from the success levels in the previous fall. The rates of success in both Math courses experienced steeper declines than the declines associated with the other three gatekeeper courses that experienced declines.

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

Legend: Fall 2004-Fall 2005-Fall 2006 | Fall 2007 | Fall2008 | Fall 2009 | Fall 2010

Course	Fall 2004-Fall 2005-Fall 2006	Fall 2007	Fall 2008	Fall 2009	Fall 2010
Math 017	56.4	52.3	57.8	51.8	45.2
Math 118	54.8	45.4	55.1	55.8	48.4
English 098	56.5	54.7	56.1	59.1	57.3
English 101	69.3	67.2	70	70.8	69.9
Biology 106	75	71.9	73.6	84.3	82.1
CIS* 103	67.4	69.4	73.5	73.1	78.1

* Computer Information Systems
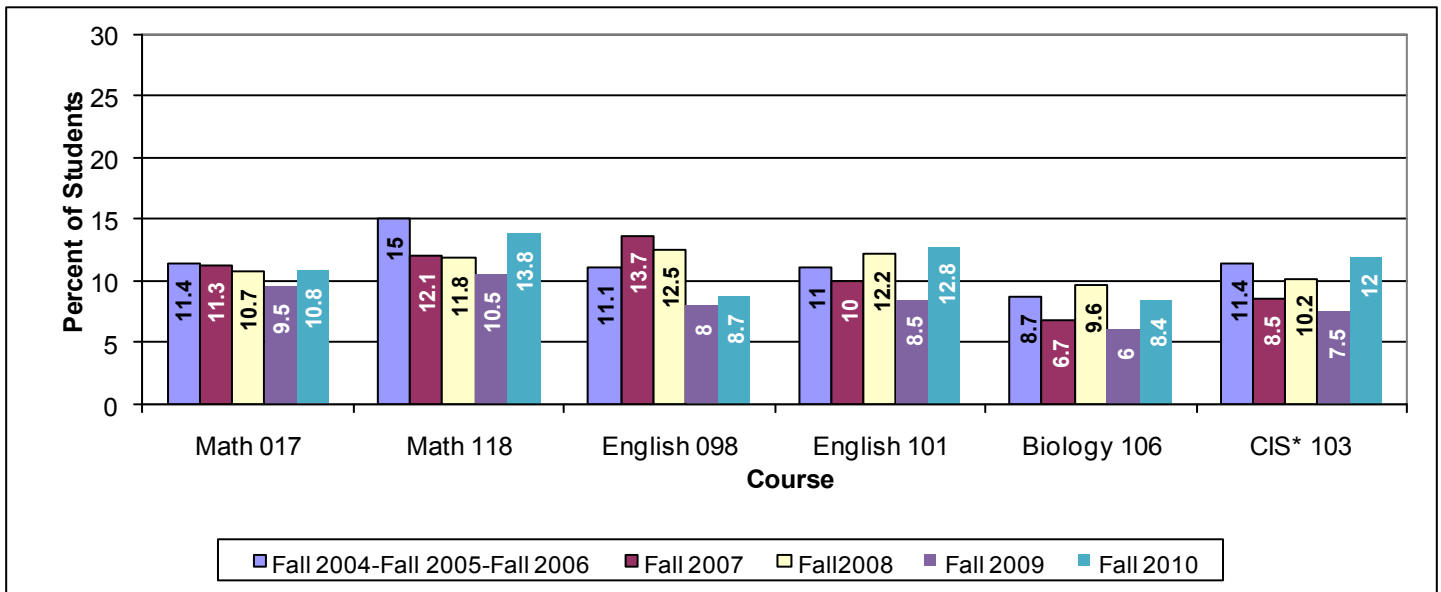
Achieving the Dream

Completion of Gatekeeper Courses

Over the last year, there was a consistent increase in the rate of fall 2010 first-time student withdrawal from gatekeeper courses. The increase in the percentage of students withdrawing from English 098 was relatively small compared to increases across the five other gatekeeper courses. The largest increases in withdraw rates were in the college-level gatekeeper courses with smaller increases in the two developmental courses.

Rates of course withdraw were highest in the college-level courses, Math 118, English 101 and CIS 103, and lowest in Biology 106 and English 098.

The gatekeeper course outcomes for the first-time fall 2010 student cohort are disappointing when compared to last fall's course outcomes. Gatekeeper course success rates (except for CIS 103) were systematically lower among first-time students in fall 2010 than for first-time cohorts in 2009. Also, the levels of student withdrawal from all gatekeeper courses in fall 2010 were higher than the withdraw rates associated with the 2009 cohort.

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

* Computer Information Systems