

**Assessment Test Results
New Students from High School
El Camino College, Fall 2001 to Fall 2005**

This report displays course placement rates for new high school graduate-aged students entering El Camino College (ECC) over 5 years. Because graduation date information is not available and new students to El Camino College can be of any age, this “direct from high school” cohort is defined as students aged 17 or 18.

Assessment tests are offered in 4 subjects at ECC: Mathematics, Reading, Writing and English as a Second Language (ESL). The ESL test has been excluded from this analysis. Each of the 3 remaining tests has a variety of course placements, particularly in Math. For this reason, placements are grouped into categories of similarly-leveled courses. These groups are 1) transfer-level (or college-level)—courses that are generally transferable for credit at a 4-year institution, 2) college-preparatory—courses that immediately precede transfer-level courses, and 3) pre-collegiate basic skills—courses defined by El Camino College as basic skills courses. The specific ECC courses within each group are listed in the appendix of this report.

Assessment Test Results by Test and Course Group

Test	Fall 2001 (n=3201)**		Fall 2002 (n=3646)		Fall 2003 (n=3588)		Fall 2004 (n=3517)		Fall 2005 (n=3550)	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Reading *										
Transfer-level	982	43.0	1307	45.2	1331	43.5	1279	45.1	1199	40.7
College-prep	549	24.0	625	21.6	668	21.9	570	20.1	638	21.6
Basic Skills	754	33.0	961	33.2	1058	34.6	988	34.8	1112	37.7
Total	2285		2893		3057		2837		2949	
Writing *										
Transfer-level	802	35.0	1088	37.6	1180	38.6	1089	38.4	1122	38.1
College-prep	1038	45.3	1234	42.6	1289	42.1	1193	42.1	1243	42.2
Basic Skills	452	19.7	575	19.8	590	19.3	554	19.5	580	19.7
Total	2292		2897		3059		2836		2945	
Math										
Transfer-level	242	10.6	277	8.6	260	7.8	263	8.2	256	7.8
College-prep	907	39.9	1240	38.6	1359	40.6	1369	42.9	1473	45.0
Basic Skills	1126	49.5	1694	52.8	1726	51.6	1562	48.9	1541	47.1
Total	2275		3211		3345		3194		3270	

Source: Datatel.

* Transfer-level placements for Reading and Writing reflect only that portion of the test, and thus, general preparation in reading and writing. To qualify for *enrollment* in English 1A, examinees must achieve a qualifying score on both the Reading and Writing portions of the assessment test (see pages 3-4).

** This figure represents the total number of students aged 17 or 18 in the given term. Since this number varies over terms, it is helpful to use the percent (%) column when comparing placement trends over time.

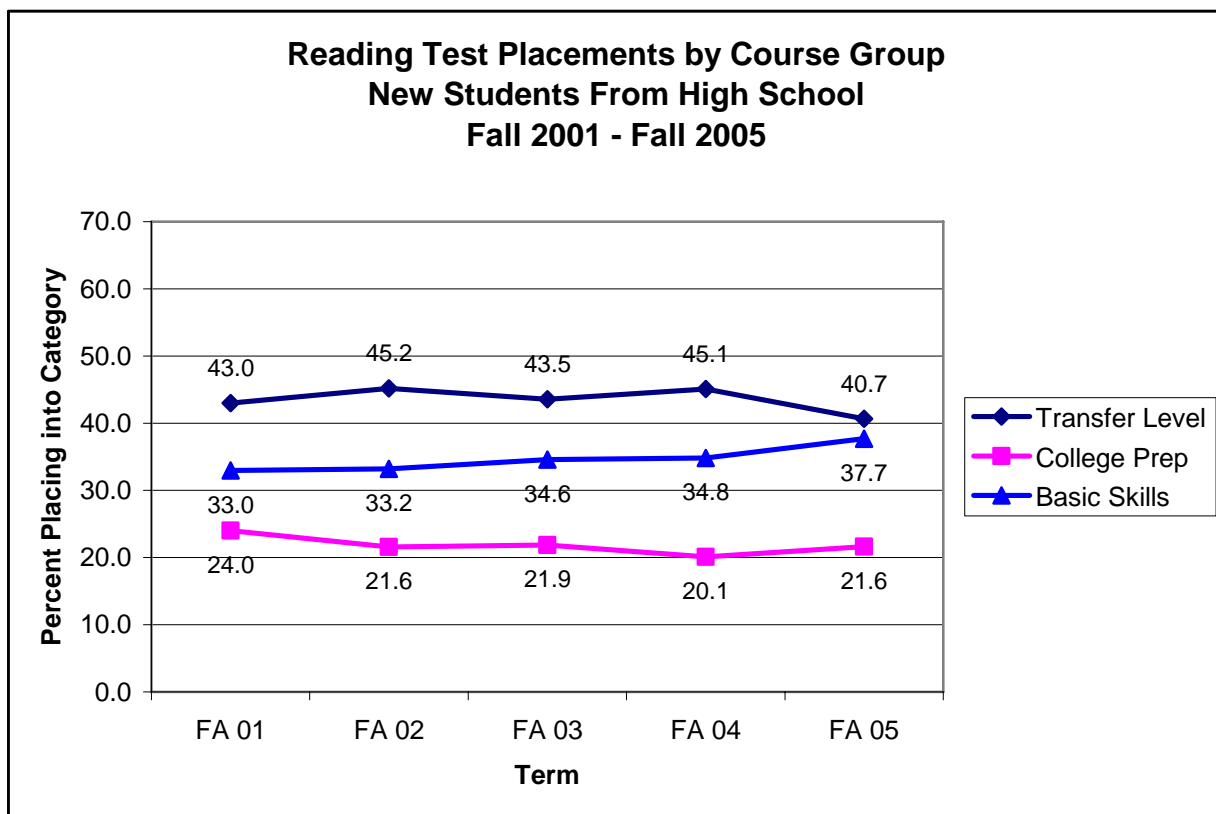
Results

Placement results for the 5 years of this study are summarized below by number and percentage in each test and course group. In addition, a chart tracking the percentage of placements in each course group follows the table.

Results from Math show declines in basic skills placements and an increase in the college-prep category (middle) increased by about 5 percentage points over the past 5 years. Placement rates into transfer-level courses increased over time for Writing, with a corresponding decline in college-prep course placements. Basic skills course placements for writing remained stable.

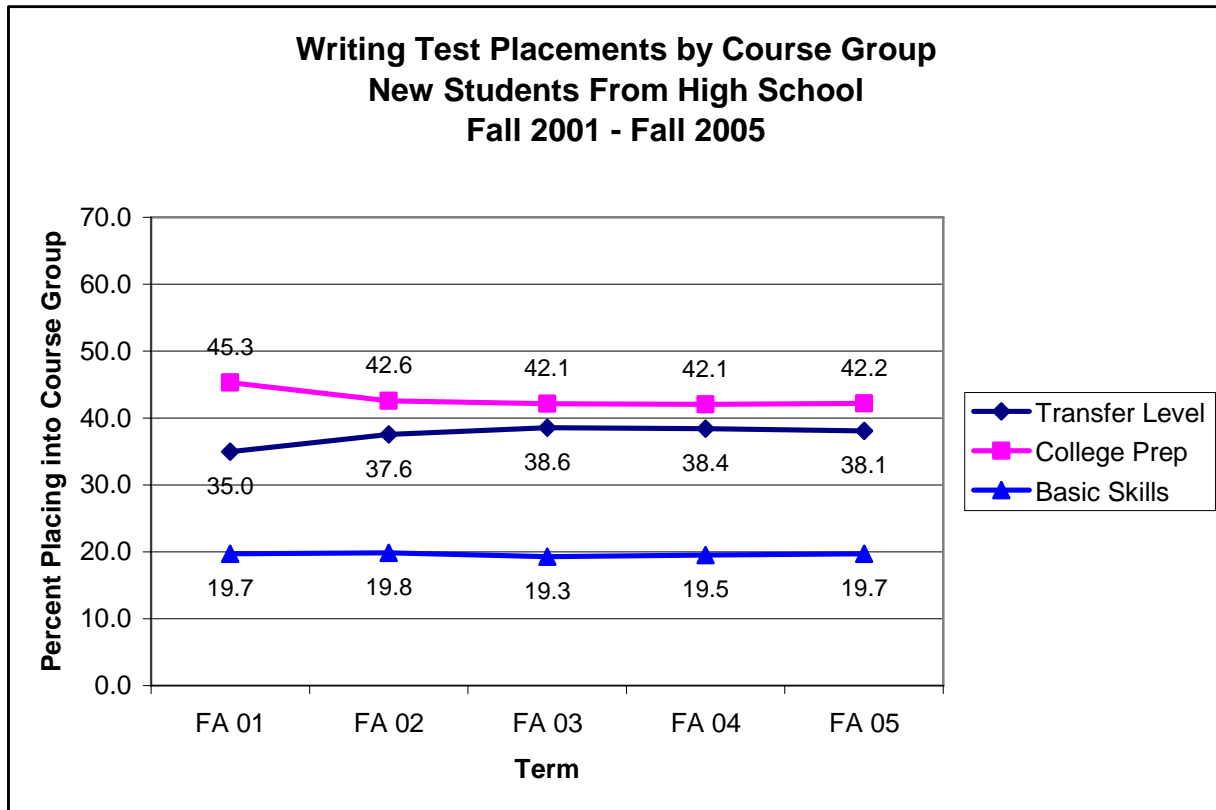
Reading

Placements into reading courses were variable over the past 5 years, but overall placement rates into the transferable level (English 1A) declined as did placements into college-preparatory courses. Basic skills course placements, on the other hand, increased over 5 years, up by about 4.7 percentage points.



Writing

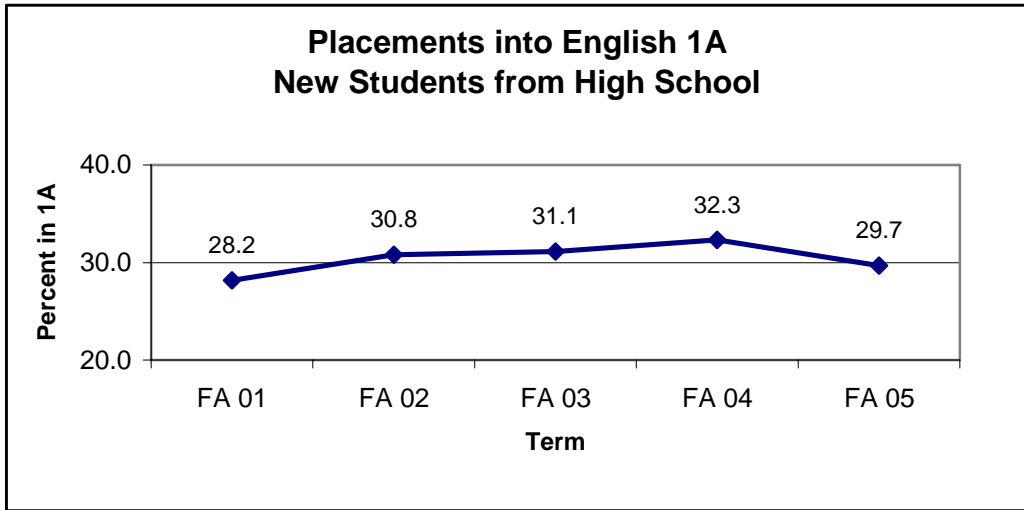
In 5 years, transfer-level course placements rose and then stabilized, while college-prep placements declined and stabilized. Placement into the basic skills course remained fairly about the same over time.



English 1A

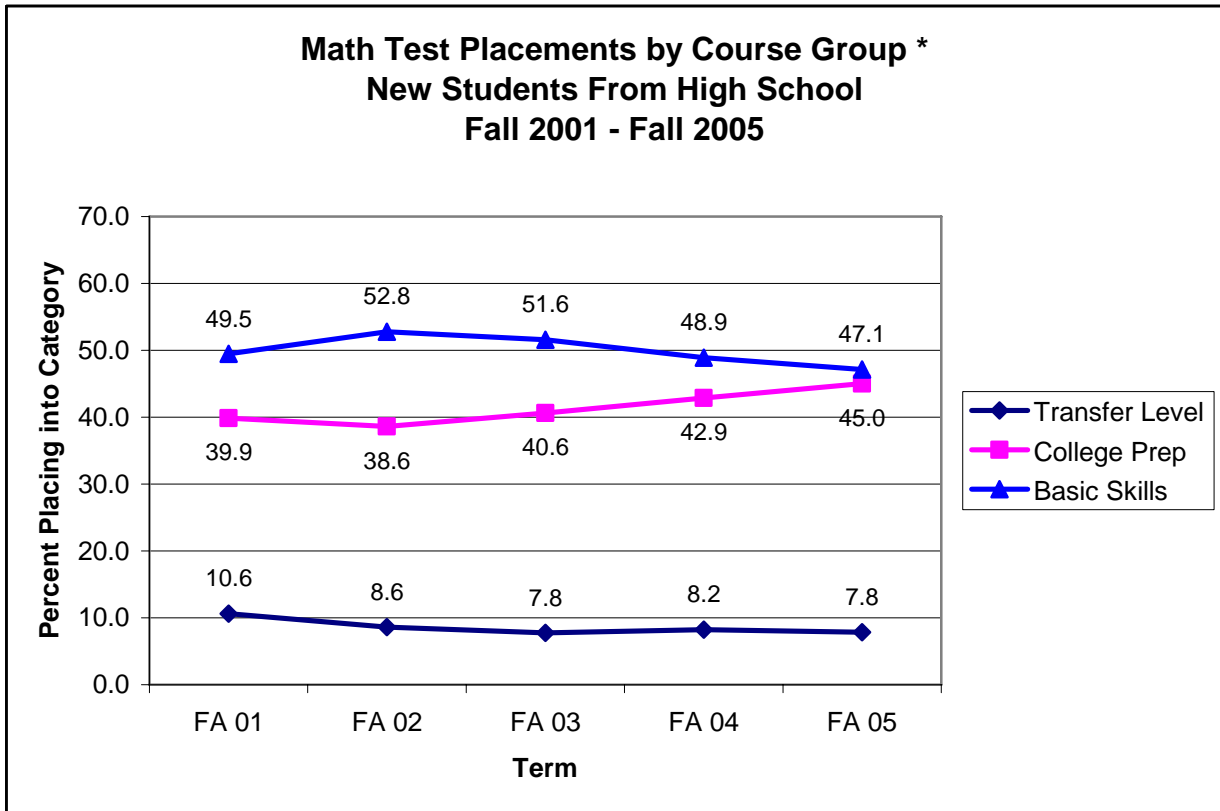
To qualify for English 1A (transfer-level reading and writing), examinees must pass both the Reading and the Writing portions of the assessment test. The two tables above reflected placement rates into the transfer-level course (English 1A) based only on one of these two criteria in order to show academic preparation by subject. The table below reflects actual course placement rates using both the reading and writing qualifying test scores.

Although placement rates fluctuated by as much as 4 percentage points over 5 years, actual placements into English 1A are slightly higher than 5 years ago.



Mathematics

Over the 5 years of the study, math experienced an overall decline in placements into basic skills courses and an increase in placements into the middle category, representing college-preparatory algebra and geometry. Placement rates into transfer-level math also declined.



Appendix – Courses by Group

Reading & Writing

Course Group	Reading	Writing
Transfer-level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> English 1A – Reading & Composition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> English 1A – Reading & Composition
College-preparatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> English 2R – Developmental Reading & Writing English 7 – Speed & Power Reading 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> English A – Writing the College Essay
Basic Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> English R – Introduction to Reading Skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> English B – Introduction to the Composing Process

Mathematics

Course Group	Course
Transfer-level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Math 190 – Calculus Math 180 – Precalculus Math 170 – Trigonometry Math 160 – Business Calculus Math 150 – Elem. Probability & Statistics Math 140 – Finite Math Math 130 – College Algebra Math 120 – Nature of Math Math 115 – Prob. & Stats for Elementary Teachers Math 110 & 111 – Math for Elem. Teachers Computer Science 1, 5, 10
College-preparatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Math 70 – Intermediate Algebra Math 60 – Geometry Math 40 or 41A – Elementary Algebra
Basic Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Math 25 – Pre-Algebra Review Math 23 – Pre-Algebra Math 10A – Basic Math