

At the request of the Academic Senate, the CHC research office conducted and published a feasibility study for an ESL program here at Crafton Hills College. The feasibility study findings are based on an analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, California Department of Education, CCC Chancellor's Office, our local assessment test results, and the Spring 2017 Community College Survey of Student Engagement.

Here is a synopsis of the findings:

- 30,732 (10%) of adults between 18 and 64 years old living in the CHC primary service area speak English less than well.
- Of those speaking English less than well, 87% speak Spanish and 10% speak an Asian or Pacific Islander language as their first language.
- 55% of adults at least 18 years old in the CHC primary service area who speak English less than well are not U.S. citizens.
- On average, 6.8% of students enrolled in a feeder high school were classified as an English Learner (EL).
- EL students were similarly likely to complete and graduate from a feeder high school as other students.
- 4% (244) of students enrolled in Fall 2017 might need to take ESL courses from a lack of experience or comfort with English.
- 18% (1,000) of students enrolled in Spring 2017 CHC students speak a language other than English as their first language.

Additionally, we found the following potential implications and considerations emerge from the findings:

- Data indicate a community need for non-credit ESL instruction to be provided in conjunction with the Adult Education Block Grant and citizenship courses.
- Data also indicate a need for credit ESL instruction for EL students completing high school who may need acceleration and additional support as they transition to college.
- While high school EL students graduate at similar rates to their high school counterparts, ESL students in community colleges do not progress into college-level courses at similar rates—especially at other colleges in the Inland Empire with existing ESL programs.

Regards,

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