

This Month’s Topic: Students’ Completion of CSU’s Golden Four Transfer Areas

At the request of the CHC Enrollment Management Taskforce, the Office of Institutional Effectiveness, Research, and Planning (OIERP) examined the extent to which students having earned 45 or more units by the end of Fall 2015 had completed courses satisfying four key areas for CSU transfer. These areas, also known as the *Golden Four*, are: (a) Oral Communication, (b) Written Communication, (c) Critical Thinking, and (d) Mathematics/Quantitative Reasoning. The resulting findings offer some insight into both the course needs of students potentially seeking to transfer and into an enrollment management strategy that may enhance the college’s growth in enrollment.

Findings

Students enrolled in the Fall 2015 semester were identified as being part of the sample if they met either of the following criteria: (a) They had completed 45 units of credit at Crafton Hills prior to the Fall 2015 semester, or (b) they had completed less than 45 units prior to the Fall 2015 semester but were enrolled in the necessary units to reach 45 unit mark by the end of the Fall 2015 semester. This resulted in the identification of 1,230 students.

The completion of a given transfer area is defined as having successfully completed (grade “C” or better) a single corresponding course. The findings revealed that 98% of students earning 45 or more units had completed at least one of the four transfer areas. In addition, 30% of those earning 45 or more units had met all four transfer areas. On the other hand, 32% of students had completed two or fewer transfer areas.

The table below illustrates the number and percentage of the 1,230 students that satisfied each of the four transfer areas. Over 90% of students had completed the written communication area; in contrast, 55% of students had completed the oral communication requirement, and 66% had satisfied the math/quantitative reasoning requirement.

The Number and Percentage of Students on the Basis of Whether They Satisfied Each of the Four Transfer Areas

Transfer Area	Satisfied Transfer Requirement		Did Not Satisfy Requirement		Total	Percent
	# Students	Percent	# Students	Percent		
Oral Comm. (e.g., COMMST-100)	673	54.7	557	45.3	1,230	100
Written Comm. (e.g., ENGL-101)	1,109	90.2	121	9.8	1,230	100
Critical Thinking (e.g., ENGL-102)	905	73.6	325	26.4	1,230	100
Math/Quant. (e.g., MATH-102)	814	66.2	416	33.8	1,230	100

Possible Implications of Findings

Collectively, these findings indicate that over two-thirds of student potentially intent on transferring to a CSU have yet to satisfy all four transfer areas, especially with respect to oral communication and math/quantitative reasoning. Nevertheless, combining such information with an understanding of the fill rates and resident FTES findings observed in those transfer areas, it is possible to develop an enrollment management strategy aimed at ameliorating the observed completion gap. In this way, the college has the information that may help in identifying the specific courses to offer, such as COMMST-100 (Oral Communication), or Math-102 (Math/Quant.); such an approach would help students complete the necessary transfer areas, and simultaneously, help the college grow in enrollment.