



ANTELOPE VALLEY COLLEGE

## *Notes from the Researchers* *- Volume 2 – October 2010*

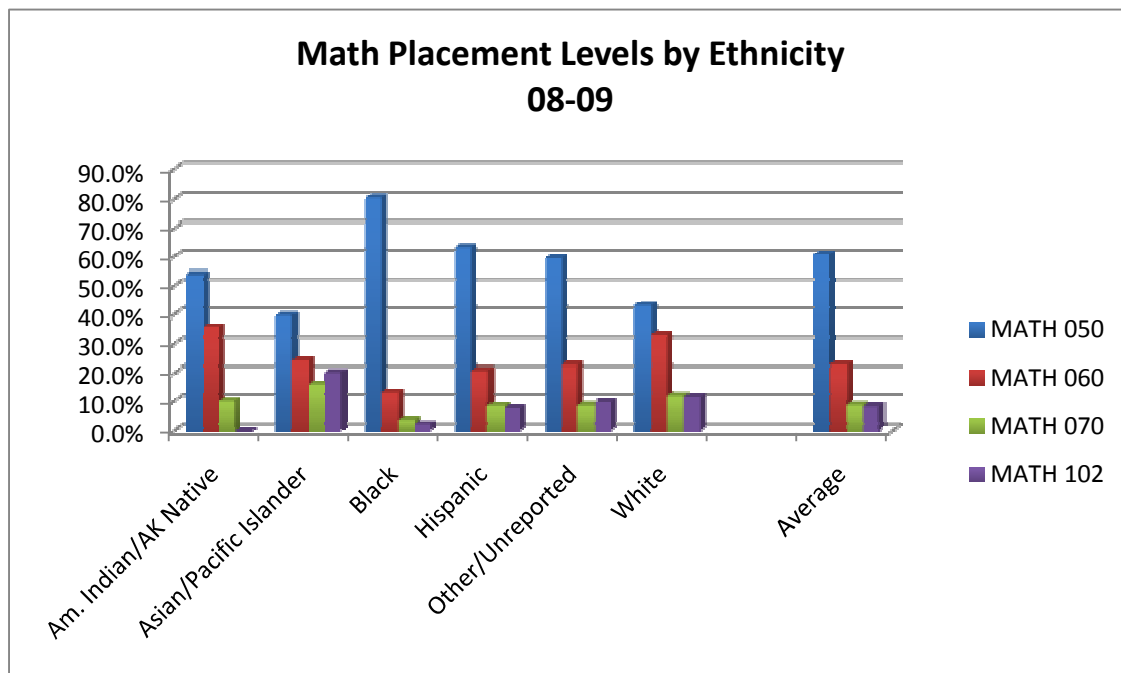
Recent Projects from the Office of Institutional Research and Planning

Research for: Statewide Faculty Senate

Research Lead: Aaron Voelcker

The purpose of this study was to observe any differences in specific ethnic groups when it comes to placement in English and mathematics basic skills courses. Understanding what proportion of each ethnic group places into each level of basic skills English or mathematics courses would help us as an institution anticipate disproportionate impact if changes in assessment, placement, or prerequisite methodologies were carried out.

A known problem in collecting data for this study was the recent change in coding for ethnicity categories. For recent terms, if a student indicates that they are biracial, they are automatically coded as “other”, making this group disproportionately large and not entirely representative of true institutional population proportions. To fix this incongruity, we decided to collect the most recent data using older ethnicity coding. For this reason, we opted to use data from the 2008-2009 academic year. The charts that follow show the proportions of each ethnic group that place in basic skills mathematics and English respectively.



From the “Math Placement Levels by Ethnicity” chart we can see that across all ethnic groups the largest proportion is placed in MATH 050, which is the lowest level of mathematics offered at AVC. The group having the smallest proportion placed into MATH 050 is that of

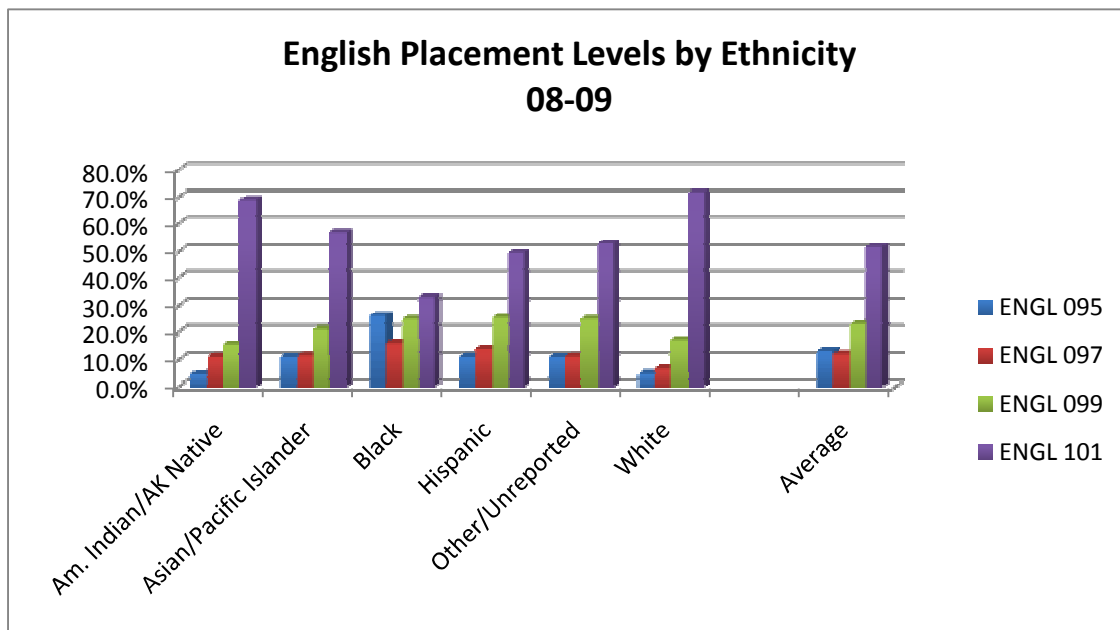


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Asian/Pacific Islanders. The group having the largest proportion placed in MATH 050 is that of Black Non-Hispanics.



From the “English Placement Levels by Ethnicity” chart we can see that across all ethnic groups the largest proportion is placed in ENGL 101, which is the highest level placement for English. The group having the smallest proportion placed into ENGL 101 is that of Black Non-Hispanics. The group having the largest proportion placed in ENGL 101 is that of White Non-Hispanics.

One overwhelming difference between math and English placement is the level at which the majority of students are being placed, irrespective of ethnic affiliation. For English placement, the majority of students are being placed at college level. For math placement, the majority of students are being placed at the bottom-most pre-collegiate level. What is the cause for this disparity? Is the need for proficiency in mathematics not being expressed enough to our youth?



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### Student Success and Equity Report SNAP SHOT

#### AVC RETENTION AND SUCCESS RATES 2004-2009

Year	Total Enrollment	Retained	% Retained	Succeeded	% Successes
2004-2005	73,772	61,962	84.00%	49,571	67.20%
2005-2006	70,117	59,617	85.00%	46,468	66.20%
2006-2007	78,253	61,887	86.70%	53,531	68.40%
2007-2008	89,586	73,415	81.94%	57,542	64.23%
2008-2009	100,116	83,857	83.76%	65,963	65.89%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>411,844</b>	<b>340,738</b>	<b>82.74%</b>	<b>273,075</b>	<b>66.31%</b>

The retention and success of AVC students over the past five years shows that the retention rate is much higher than the success rate. It is unfortunate that in 2007-2008 there was a significant drop in both retention and success. We did see a slight increase in both the retention and success rate in 2008-09, although not as high a rate as the 2006-2007 year.

#### STATEWIDE RETENTION AND SUCCESS RATES 2004-2009

Year	Total Enrollment	Retained	% Retained	Succeeded	% Successes
2004-2005	8,471,495	7,105,025	83.87%	5,776,805	68.19%
2005-2006	8,469,730	7,098,735	83.81%	5,728,101	67.63%
2006-2007	8,657,360	7,279,823	84.09%	5,878,722	67.90%
2007-2008	9,226,614	7,690,607	83.35%	6,226,331	67.48%
2008-2009	10,050,894	8,440,392	83.98%	6,831,825	67.97%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>44,876,093</b>	<b>37,614,582</b>	<b>83.82%</b>	<b>30,441,784</b>	<b>67.84%</b>

\*Source: Data from Chancellor's Web Site

In comparison to the state-wide data on retention and success, AVC was higher in retention from 2004-2007 and then slightly below from 2007-2008 and 2008-2009. Unfortunately, AVC had a lower success rate than the state in all years except for 2006-07.