

## Introduction

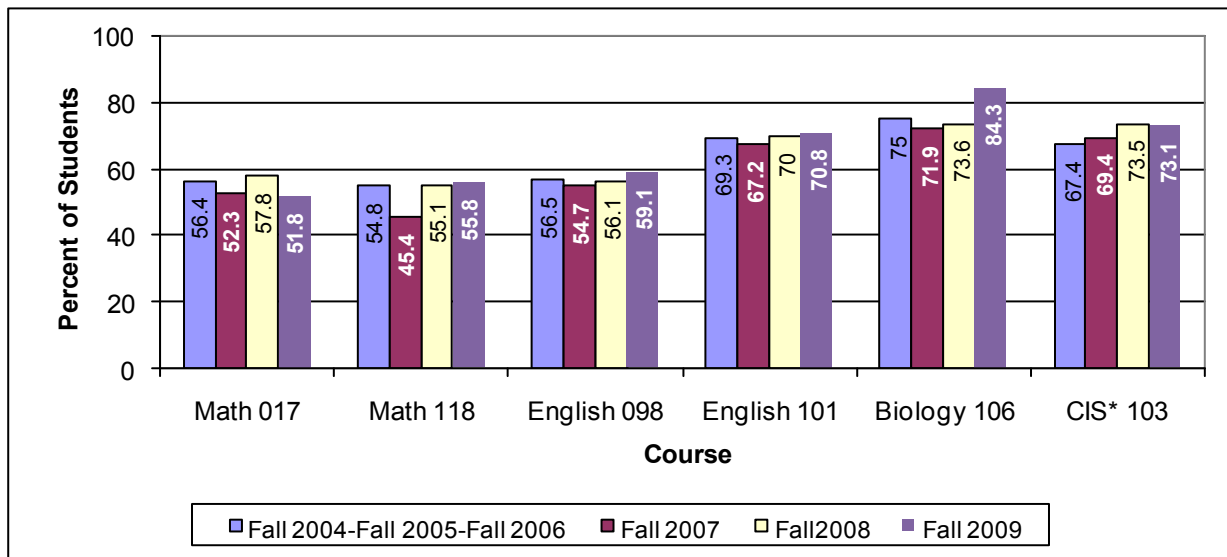
One of the Achieving the Dream (AtD) objectives is to increase the percentage of students who successfully complete gatekeeper courses. The AtD initiative defines gatekeeper courses as *first level curricular courses that students must pass before enrolling in more advanced courses in their major field*. 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 2009 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 represented in Figure 1 represent the percentage of successful first-time CCP students in each of the six gatekeeper courses. Over time, success rates have been highest in Biology 106. This was especially the case for the fall 2009 cohort. The percentage of successful grades awarded in English 101 and CIS 103 have also been higher than in either Math course or English 098. In both English 101 and CIS 103 the success rates among the fall 2009 cohort were comparable to those of the fall 2008 cohort. The same was true for success rates in Math 118 which have been fairly consistent except in fall 2007. The success rate in English 098 was 3% greater for the fall 2009 cohort than was true for their most immediate predecessors. The biggest disappointment in fall 2009 was the 6.2% drop in successful grade outcomes in Math 017.

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



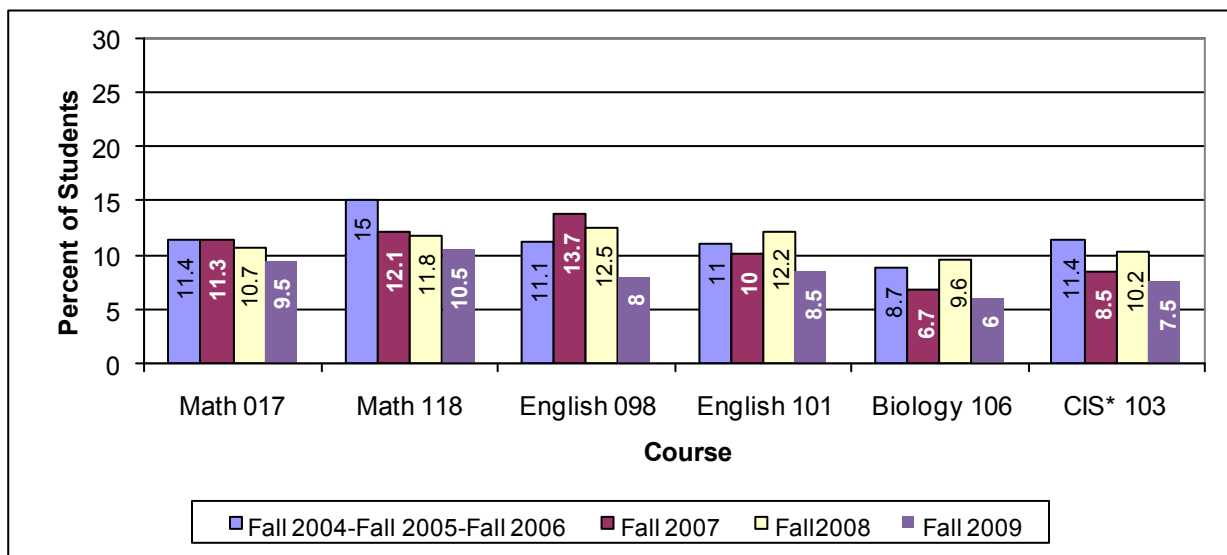
\* Computer Information Systems

## Completion of Gatekeeper Courses

There was a consistent improvement in the rate of fall 2009 first-time student withdrawal from Gatekeeper courses. Over time there has been consistent improvement in both Math courses. Since the earliest cohort, the rate of withdrawal from Math 118 has fallen from 15% to 10.5%. For Math 017 the rate of withdrawal has dropped from 11.4% to 9.5%. For the fall 2009 cohort the rates of student withdrawal from English courses dropped to 8% for English 098 and 8.5% for English 101. For the most recent cohort, the rate of withdrawal from Biology 106 and CIS 103 was 5.9% and 7.5% respectively.

The Gatekeeper course outcomes for the first-time fall 2009 student cohort are encouraging. Gatekeeper course withdraw rates were systematically lower among first-time students in fall 2009 than for earlier first-time cohorts. Also, the level of successful grades (A,B,C and P) awarded to first-time students in fall 2009 were higher than the success rates associated with earlier cohorts in English 098, English 101, Math 118, and Biology 106. In concert, these findings are heartening and provide the possibility for greater levels of longer-term student success for the fall 2009 first-time student cohort as these students continue their studies at CCP.

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



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