

Estrella Mountain Community College
General Education
Core Indicators of Effectiveness
Executive Summary of Results – February 2001

Core Indicator #1:
Successful Completion of General Education Courses

Results Summary:

Successful completion (C or better) and standard completion (grades A-F) rates were calculated for general education prefixes that either meet the AA/AS transfer degree or the General Arizona Education Curriculum (AGEC) requirements. Within each prefix, only courses that can be applied to AGEC or the additional Maricopa requirements for associate degrees were included. Electives were excluded.

Successful completion and standard completion rates were aggregated by prefix, not by individual courses (“ENG” not “ENG101”). Also, course prefixes with less than 30 Estrella Mountain students were excluded from the analysis.

The analysis was conducted for all students. A separate analysis was also conducted that excluded high school dual enrollment students. Overall, successful completion and standard completion rates are higher at Estrella Mountain than the District average.

Key Findings:

- Approximately 2 out of 3 general education prefixes have higher successful and standard completion rates than the District average. This is valid for both the cohort that included all students and the cohort that excluded dual enrollment.
- General education prefixes in Critical Reading, Economics, General Business, and History had successful completion rates that were at least 10 percentage points higher than the District average.
- Chemistry, Math, and Philosophy courses have lower successful completion and standard completion rates than the District average. Spanish also has lower completion rates when dual enrollment students are removed. Successful completion rates in all four of these prefixes tended to be lower for the non-dual enrollment cohort as well.
- Low successful completion rates are caused more by students who “withdraw” (grade =W) versus students who receive grades of Ds, Fs and Ys. Note “Roster Drops” (grade = R) are excluded from the analysis. Roster drops occur when a student drops during the “drop add” period or is moved to a related higher or lower level course mid semester

Core Indicator #2: General Education Course Variety and Depth

Results Summary:

Given its smaller size, Estrella Mountain is faced with a significant challenge in offering a wide variety and depth of general education courses. Less than 15% of Estrella Mountain's annual FTSE is generated by 200 level courses (many of these are general education prefixes). Only one other college in the system generates a smaller percentage of 200 level FTSE in the Maricopa Community College District.

While Estrella Mountain has a long way to go with regards to course variety and depth, it is making progress. The college continues to expand the variety and depth of General Education offerings. Estrella Mountain has increased the percentage of AGEC and AA courses that it offers. Currently the college is still below the District-wide average in the percentage of AGEC and AA courses offered; however, it still offers a greater percentage of these courses than four other Maricopa Colleges (Note: this relates to the number of different courses offered and not to the total number of sections offered to students).

Key Findings:

- Estrella Mountain continues to offer and make a greater number of general education courses that satisfy two-year associate degrees and AGEC requirements.
- More sections are making; however, the percentage made has decreased in recent years. Over the last two years the college has cancelled 20% of AGEC and/or AA courses. This compares to just 12% in 1996-1997 and 1997-1998.
- Estrella Mountain offered 32% of the total general education courses that can satisfy AGEC and AA transfer degree requirements during the 1999-2000 school year (up from 30% in 1998-1999). This percentage is higher than four other Maricopa Colleges (South Mountain 28%, Chandler Gilbert 29% and Rio Salado 30%) but lower than the District wide average of 38%. Mesa Community College (the largest in the system) offers 61% of total possible AA and AGEC courses. Note: This only represents the variety of general education courses offered. Students at all college's can complete AA, AS and the AGEC block with a subset of the total courses available.
- While Estrella Mountain has not recently completed a course variety survey for general education courses, Estrella Mountain has distributed the Noel Levitz Student Satisfaction Inventory twice. Estrella Mountain has scored slightly below the national average on the Noel Levitz question related to overall course variety. The survey will be administered again this spring 2001.