Improving High School to College Transition by Improving Placement (Enhanced Multiple Measures)

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I got placed in the wrong class. It was too easy for me.
“I came straight after high school, and I was doing algebra and geometry. … so you come to college and get an assessment on just all basics—you’re really not in that mindset anymore.”

Source: Student Voice from Venezia, Bracco & Nodine 2010
I got my test results and I cried.

It was going to take me years to get through math alone.

I thought to myself-

WIll I ever graduate from community college?

Why is Accurate Placement the Key to Increasing Completion?

- About two thirds of all CC students in CA and nationally enroll in one or more remedial courses. (BPS 2003-2004 cohort; CCCO 2009)

- Only 33% assigned to math and 46% assigned to English complete the remedial sequence. (Bailey, Jeong & Cho 2008).

- Enrolling in remedial courses negatively affects student’s chances of earning a credential. (Dadgar 2012; Martorell & McFarlin 2011; Scott-Clayton & Rodriguez 2012)
Remedial Placement Rates by Race

Can We Improve Placement Accuracy?

➤ In mathematics 1 in 4 students are severely misplaced; in English 1 in 3 are severely misplaced (Scott Clayton 2012; Belfield and Crosta 2012; Scott-Clayton, Crosta & Belfield 2012).

➤ Being placed too low is 5-6 times more common that being placed too high. (Scott Clayton 2012; Belfield and Crosta 2012; Scott-Clayton, Crosta & Belfield 2012)

➤ Using GPA and course grades can substantially reduce placement errors.

--GPA alone instead of the tests cut placement error by half in North Carolina and in Alaska (Crosta and Belfield 2012; Hodara forthcoming)
--Success in Math and English Courses also helpful (Scott-Clayton et al 2012; Bahr et al 2014)
## Measures Compared:

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<th>MEASURE</th>
<th>Predictive of College Success</th>
<th>Aligned with HS curricula</th>
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<tr>
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Massachusetts

GPA

- No GPA or GPA more than 3 Years Old
- Below 2.4
- 2.4 to 2.7
- 2.7 or Above

Passed 4 Math Courses Including Senior Year?

No

Yes

Takes placement test and meets cut score?

No

Yes

Developmental Education

Credit Bearing Course

Bracco, Dadgar & Finklestein 2013
Improving Placement: Process Steps

College Math & English Faculty/Administrators

Determine criteria for placement
This will dictate what data is needed to transfer.

School District Administrators

Obtain consent for transfer of student data
- Opt-out: Give students opportunity to opt-out of data transfer, during the fall semester
- No Consent Required: USD interpretation does not require consent

School District & College IR Department

Data Transfer
Transfer data from all high school seniors to community college (except those who have opted out) – SSN are not transferred.

College IR/Matriculation Department

Data Upload
Student placement is uploaded into college’s software program (e.g. Peoplesoft, Banner).

Matching
For students who apply to community college, placement referrals are matched to application records using name and DOB.

Placement based on data
Students are placed based on multiple measures formula.

Counselors

Communicate Placement
College’s software program communicates placement to counselors and students

Legend:
Community College
Unified School District
Both USD & CC

Document prepared by Brook Sinclair and Mina Dadgar based on information provided by John Hetts, Andrew Fuenmayor, and Nathan Pellegrin.
Case Studies

Berkeley City College & Contra Costa College