

Santa Monica College Advanced Placement English Study

The data below was collected from Fall 2004 through and including Winter 2008. Prior to Fall 2004, SMC required a score of 4 on the English AP in order to waive students into second semester composition/critical thinking, English 2. Upon learning that the University of California accepts a score of 3 to satisfy 1st semester composition for admission purposes for transfer students, the SMC English faculty decided to allow a score of 3 or better to satisfy first semester English composition. Students with a 3 or better are now allowed to enroll directly into English 2, Critical Analysis and Intermediate Composition.

Column A: All students that took English 1 (first semester composition) and received a “C” grade, the lowest grade possible to enter into English 2 (composition and critical thinking) (3599 students)

Column B: All students that took the AP English exam and received a score of 3, the lowest scores possible to enter into English 2 (325 students). Students that were waived into English 2 with a score of 4 or 5 were excluded from this study.

	COLUMN A (SMC English 1 students)	COLUMN B (AP English students)
W	8.9% (319)	4.6% (15)
Inc.	.14% (5)	0
NC	.03% (1)	0
Cr	.06% (2)	0
F	3% (109)	2.8% (9)
D	3% (107)	1.2% (4)
C	36.7% (1323)	4.9% (16)
B	36.8% (1326)	28.9% (94)
A	11.3% (407)	57.5% (187)
% of students that passed English 2	84.86%	91.3%

Conclusion: Students who complete either English AP exam with a score of 3 pass English 2 at a higher rate and earn demonstrably more A’s than students that earn a C in SMC’s English 1.

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