

## **English Transition from a Community College to a California State University Campus**

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Transferring from a community college to a university is a journey through checklists of general education requirements, transfer agreements, transcript requests, scholarship and loan applications, and other complexities that in and of themselves should earn a student a few units. Most upper division coursework requires a high level of proficiency in reading college level texts and exemplary writing skills. Prior to transferring, it is typical for a student to have completed at least a college composition class; the archetypal English 1A. We sought to discover how many of these students progress onward in English after transferring and which class they took if they went beyond English 1A at the community college.

The chart above shows the relationship between the last English course passed at a community college and the level of the first English class taken at the nearest California State University (CSU). The data are from 2,586 students who were at a local community college between 1996 and 2004 and transferred to the nearest CSU between 2000 and 2004. Students are generally required to complete at least a transferable College Composition course (English 1A) before transferring. Non-English majors are then expected to take Expository Writing (English 1B or 1C) while English majors are exempt from this requirement and move directly to literature courses. There is also a Writing Proficiency Exam (WPE) preparation class for upper division students who have not yet passed the WPE exam.

About 11% of students who had completed College Composition at the community college attempted English major literature courses compared to 45% of students who had completed Expository Writing in the community college transitioning to English major literature courses. Students who had completed Expository Writing at the community college transitioned into a WPE class at a rate three times higher than those who had completed only College Composition possibly indicating a greater readiness for upper division work. Of students who completed Expository Writing at the community college, 16% took Expository Writing again at the CSU.

**Legend**

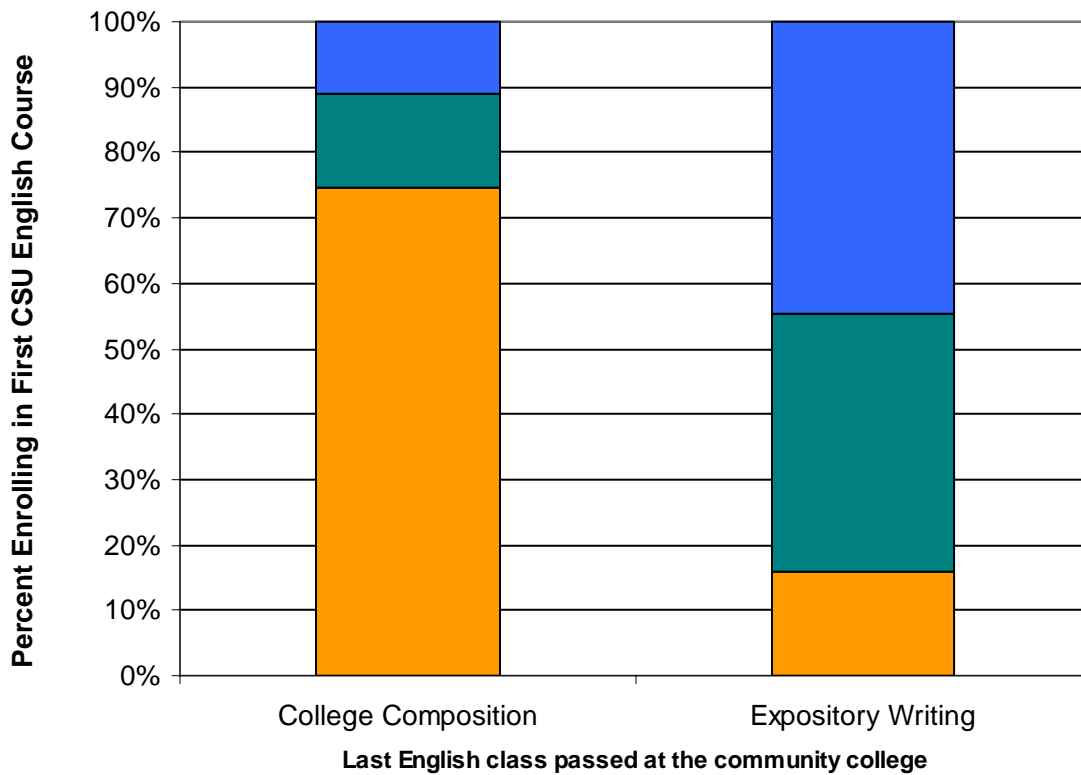
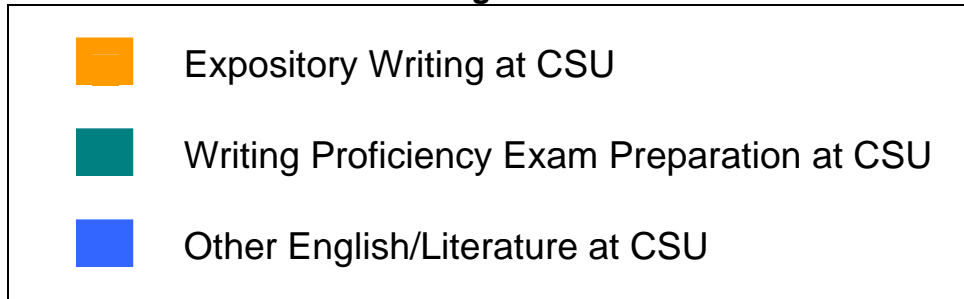


Figure 1. Progression in English from a local community college to a nearby California State University.