



INSIGHTS

Statistical Validation for English 10S as a Prerequisite for Humanistic Studies 2LS

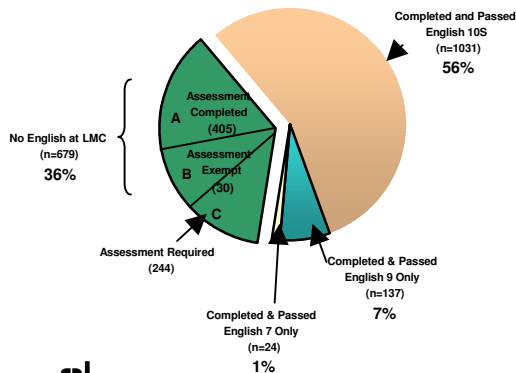
Summary

Prerequisites help ensure that students have the necessary skills and academic background to succeed in a course. By imposing prerequisites, student *success* in the course is expected to increase. Matriculation regulations state that “*In order to show that a prerequisite is necessary for success in a particular course, the validation procedure must ensure that a student who has not met the prerequisite is highly unlikely to obtain a satisfactory grade in the course.*”

At the request of the General Education Task Force, last semester a statistical validation study was conducted to explore the potential student benefit of requiring college level English (English 10S) for enrolling in Humanistic Studies 2LS (HUMST 2LS), a graduation requirement for the associate degree at Los Medanos College. Course *success and retention* rates in HUMST 2LS were examined as a result of imposing English 10S as a prerequisite. HUMST 2LS is a capstone course, in which students investigate controversial social issues. Students in HUMST 2LS are required to write a 20-25-page paper in which they demonstrate a problem solving approach to a complex ethical issue.

For this study, all students who enrolled in HUMST 2LS from Fall 1993 and Fall 1996 semesters were selected and then divided according to their level of English preparation. A sample of 1,871 students were identified (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Sample Distribution According to English Level Preparation (n=1,871)

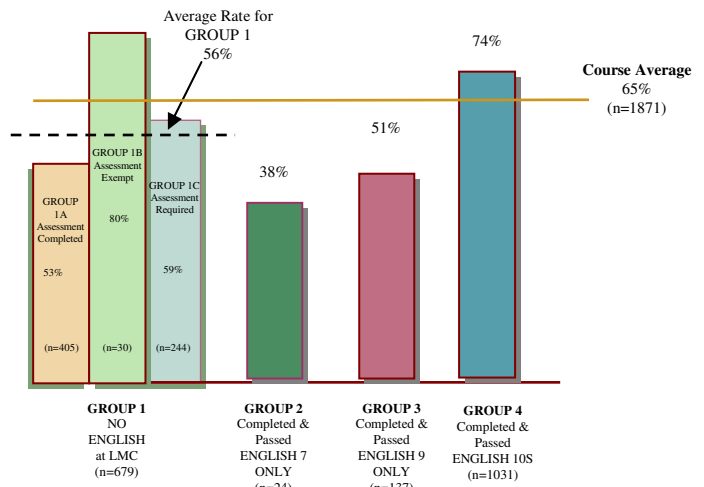


Results indicated that the success rate of students with ENGLISH 10S prior to enrolling in Humanistic Studies 2LS is significantly greater than the success rate of students without ENGLISH 10S, except for the rate of those students who have been exempted from assessment -- Figure 2 -- (most students who are exempt from assessment have taken college-level English at another college or have an Associate or Bachelor's degree when enrolling at LMC).

The success rate in HUMST 2LS for all students in the sample (overall course success rate) is 65%. The success rate in HUMST 2LS for students with ENGLISH 10S increases to 74% -- a 9-point increase. The success rate for students with ENGLISH 9 ONLY decreases to 51% -- 14 points below the class average and 23 points below the rate of students with ENGLISH 10S. The course success rate for students with BASIC ENGLISH ONLY (English 7) is a low 38%.

As for students with NO ENGLISH AT LMC, differences exist within these students. Students who have been assessed but still need to enroll in an English class (Group 1A) and students who still need to go through the assessment process (Group 1C) have significant lower success rates in HUMST 2LS than students who have been exempt (Group 1B). Students who are exempt from assessment have higher course success rates than the course average (80% vs. 65%), and slightly higher than those who have successfully completed English 10S (80% vs. 74%).

Figure 2. Course Success Rate in HUMST 2LS by English Level Preparation: Fall 1993 to Fall 1996 Student Cohorts Combined (n=1871)

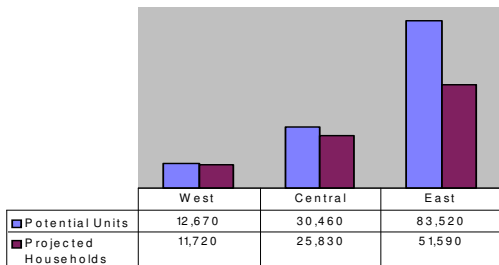


Contra Costa County Projections: 1998

The latest community projections from ABAG just became available. Consistent with past ABAG projections, according to their 1998 report, East Contra Costa will continue to dominate the county’s growth in the next 25 years (from 1995 to 2020), particularly housing and household population.

Housing: The available land in East Contra Costa would yield about 83,520 new potential units in the next 25 years, enough land and units to accommodate the projected number of households (Figure 3)

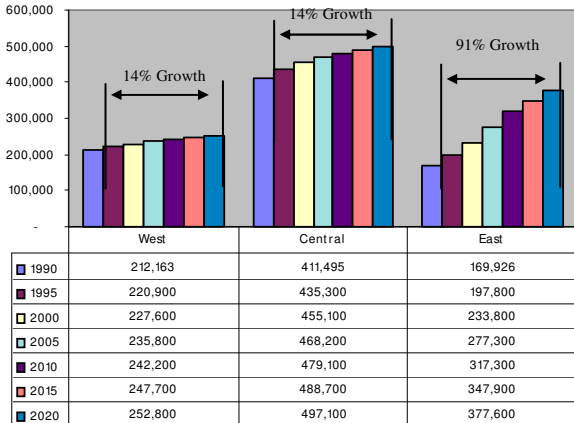
Figure 3. Projected Home Units & Households Projections: 1995 - 2020 Contra Costa County



Source: ABAG Projections 1998 Report, January 1998.

Household Population Projections: East Contra Costa County will experience the highest household population growth (91%) in the next 25 years (from 1995 to 2020) - Figure 4.

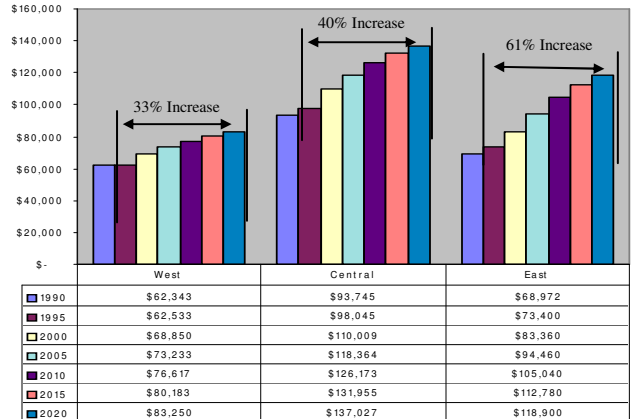
Figure 4. Household Population Projections: 1990 - 2020 Contra Costa County



Source: ABAG Projections 1998 Report, January 1998.

Income Level: East Contra Costa will experience the highest average income growth (61%) in the next 25 years (from 1995 to 2020) - Figure 5.

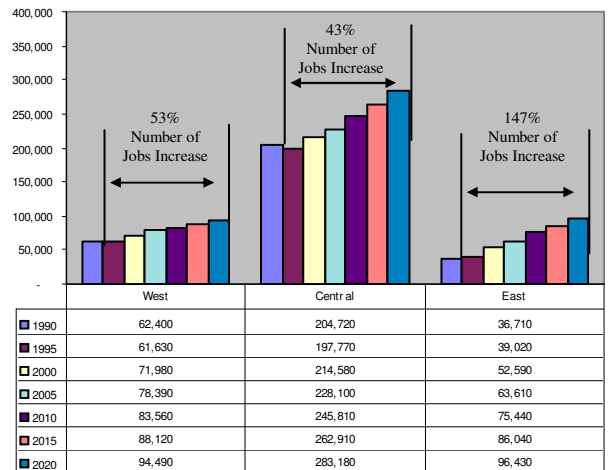
Figure 5. Mean Household Income Projections: 1990-2020 Contra Costa County



Source: ABAG Projections 1998 Report, January 1998.

Jobs: The greatest number of jobs available will be in the central part of the county, with a growth rate of 34% (Figure 6). East Contra Costa will experience the fastest job growth (147%) in the next 25 years.

Figure 6. Total Jobs Projections: 1990-2020 Contra Costa County



Source: ABAG Projections 1998 Report, January 1998.

INSIGHTS is a publication of the Research Office. Forward any comments or suggestions to Humberto Sale (Box 317).

