

**English as a Second Language/Linguistics
Courses Taken by Writing III/Reading IV Students**

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Introduction

As part of its program review process, the English as a Second Language/ Linguistics department of Harper College was interested in the courses taken by students at or above ESL Writing Level III and Reading Level IV. These students are allowed to enroll in other courses at the College in addition to their ESL courses. In order to better serve these students, the ESL department was interested in learning which courses these students take and how successful they are in these courses.

The student population for this study was defined as those enrolled in Writing Level III or Reading Level IV or above in fiscal years 2005 through 2007. These writing and reading levels correspond to the following ESL courses:

- ESL063 (Writing III),
- ESL067 (Writing IV),
- ESL074(Writing V),
- ESL057 (Reading IV), and
- ESL073 (Reading IV).

Harper's Regent system was queried to identify these students. A total of 1,805 students were enrolled in at least one of the focal ESL courses between FY05 and FY07. The Regent system was also used to obtain information about the non-ESL courses these students had taken and their grades in these courses.

This report is organized into an Introduction, a Results and Discussion section that presents the results in tabular form, and a Summary section that highlights key findings.

Results and Discussion

As noted above, 1,805 students took at least one of the focal ESL courses between FY05 and FY07. Table 1, below, shows how many students enrolled in each of the focal ESL courses. The majority of students (52%) took more than one of the focal ESL courses between FY05 and FY07.

Table 1: Counts of Students in Writing III/Reading IV and Above, FY05-FY07

ESL Course (N=1,805)	N	%
ESL063	886	49.1%
ESL067	871	48.3%
ESL074	763	42.3%
ESL057	711	39.4%
ESL073	764	42.3%

Students at or above Writing III/Reading IV are permitted to enroll in non-ESL courses. Table 2 shows the twenty most common courses (excluding other ESL courses) taken by these students concurrently with or subsequent to their enrollment in Writing III/Reading IV. In all, these students enrolled in 497 different non-ESL courses during or after their enrollment in Writing III/Reading IV, generating a seatcount of 5,777 for the College. However, nearly half of these students (859, or 48%) have not yet taken non-ESL courses at Harper. On average, these students enrolled in 3.2 non-ESL courses. The students most often took general education/transfer courses (e.g., ENG101, PSY101, ENG102, SPE101). Some career-related courses are represented as well, such as ACC101, BIO160 (a required course for the Limited Enrollment health career programs), CIS101, HSC112, and MGT111.

Table 2: Twenty Most Common Courses Taken by Writing III/Reading IV Students

Course (N=1,805)	N	%
ENG101	516	28.6%
PSY101	310	17.2%
ENG102	197	10.9%
SPE101	185	10.2%
MTH080	143	7.9%
ACC101	133	7.4%
SOC101	133	7.4%
ECO211	104	5.8%
MTH103	102	5.7%
MTH060	101	5.6%
BIO160	98	5.4%
CIS101	95	5.3%
HSC112	90	5.0%
BIO101	88	4.9%
BIO110	88	4.9%
CHM121	88	4.9%
MTH140	82	4.5%
CHM100	74	4.1%
MGT111	74	4.1%
MTH200	74	4.1%

Table 3 shows how well the students performed in their non-ESL courses. Students' grades are displayed converted into a four-point scale (A=4, B=3, etc.). The passing rate indicates the proportion of students achieving a grade of C or better in each course. Also shown is the withdrawal (W) rate for the ESL students in these courses.

Table 3: Performance of Writing III/Reading IV Students in Non-ESL Courses

Course	N	Avg. Grade ^a	Std. Dev.	Pass Rate ^b	W Rate
ENG101	516	2.96	1.07	80.0%	12.4%
PSY101	310	2.80	1.18	72.9%	15.2%
ENG102	197	2.87	1.13	75.6%	15.7%
SPE101	185	3.15	1.05	85.4%	8.6%
MTH080	143	2.42	1.37	67.8%	10.5%
SOC101	133	2.76	1.10	78.2%	12.0%
ACC101	133	2.17	1.38	57.1%	19.5%
ECO211	104	2.53	1.33	69.2%	10.6%
MTH103	102	2.10	1.16	62.7%	14.7%
MTH060	101	2.30	1.36	68.3%	8.9%
BIO160	98	2.70	1.12	58.2%	34.7%
CIS101	95	2.49	1.35	66.3%	12.6%
HSC112	90	3.23	1.04	82.2%	11.1%
CHM121	88	2.94	1.05	80.7%	9.1%
BIO110	88	2.62	1.10	73.9%	11.4%
BIO101	88	3.13	1.09	81.8%	10.2%
MTH140	82	2.43	1.33	65.9%	14.6%
MTH200	74	2.83	1.29	71.6%	14.9%
MGT111	74	2.59	1.37	67.6%	13.5%
CHM100	74	2.92	1.20	79.7%	12.2%

^a Grades have been converted to a four point scale: A=4, B=3, C=2, D=1, F=0. Other grades (W, P, H) have not been converted.

^b Grades of C or better are defined as passing grades. Students generally need a grade of C or better for a course to count towards a major or to receive transfer credit.

As shown in Table 3, the pass rates for the non-ESL courses ranged from 85 percent (SPE101) to 57 percent (ACC101). The withdrawal rates ranged from 35 percent (BIO160) to 9 percent (SPE101). The average pass rate was 72 percent, while the average withdrawal rate was 14 percent. Both of these averages appear consistent with, if not more positive than, overall Harper averages (for FY07, the overall Harper pass rate was 63.5% and the Harper W rate was 14.3%). The average numerical grade earned by the Writing III/Reading IV students in the top twenty non-ESL courses was 2.7 (equivalent to a C+).

If we consider all non-ESL courses taken (rather than just the top twenty), students' average numerical grade was a 2.97. Their passing rate was 76 percent, and their withdrawal rate was 10 percent.

Summary

From FY05 to FY07, a total of 1,805 students were enrolled in ESL Writing III/Reading IV or higher-level writing and reading courses. Just over half of these students (946, or 52%) had enrolled in non-ESL courses at the College during or after their enrollment in the advanced writing or reading courses. These students enrolled in

497 different courses, generating 5,777 in seatcount for the College. The average student enrolled in 3.2 non-ESL courses.

The most common courses were ENG101, PSY101, ENG102, SPE101, and MTH080. Some of the ESL students also enrolled in career-related courses such as ACC101, BIO160 (a required course for Limited Enrollment health career programs), CIS101, HSC112, and MGT111. The advanced ESL students appeared relatively successful in the most common courses: their average pass rate was 72 percent and their withdrawal rate was 14 percent. Students' average grade in their non-ESL courses was equivalent to a C+. These success rates are consistent with or more positive than overall Harper averages.