

**Evaluation of Academic Performance of ESL 103 students
in subsequent English courses**

By

**Research and Planning Office
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Background

Palomar College offers an ESL 103 course that blank students who are not native English speakers in English grammar and composition. The course is designed to help the students develop effective communication skills that help in future courses that require writing in English.

Of particular interest to the ESL department is the progression and success rate of their ESL 103 students to English 50 and English 100. The purpose of the study is to examine ESL student success rates in English courses that require written compositions.

Methods and Procedures

We investigated ESL 103 students' progression to English 50 and English 100. Cohorts were developed by the semester (Fall 1996 to Fall 1999) and section number they completed ESL 103. The cohorts were tracked for four successive semesters to determine whether or not they enrolled in English 50 or English 100. The results of semester cohorts are presented in Appendix A of this report.

At the request of the ESL department chair, we reviewed the progression to English 50 and English 100 courses, success rate, and pass rate by ESL faculty. Appendix B contains the results of these analyses.

Procedures

We collected student information from student history enrollment files. The Office of Research and Planning update this information each semester. Using these student records, we were able to recognize the courses taken, term of completion, and student grade in the course. After selecting students taking ESL 103 and tracking them for four successive semesters, we ran simple frequencies and descriptive statistics to obtain information for grade distributions. Success rate (%Succ) is defined by a grade of "C" or better. Pass rate (%Pass) is defined by a grade of "D" or better.

Results

Table 1 depicts the percentage of all the ESL 103 students who go on to English 100. Of the 552 students who completed ESL 103, 225 (40.8%) of them move forward to English 100. These results show that delayed enrollment in English 100 results in lower progression, success and pass rates in English 100.

Table 1
All ESL 103 to English 100

	%Prgrs	%Succ	%Pass
1st Sem	40.8	33.2	35.9
2nd Sem	15.0	10.3	11.2
3rd Sem	4.3	2.4	2.5
4th Sem	3.6	1.6	1.8
Totals	63.7	47.5	51.4

Table 2 is a breakdown of the progression, success, and pass rates of the ESL 103 students who took English 100. We found that students who enrolled in English 100 in the subsequent semester had a higher success and pass rate than did students who enrolled two semesters after completion of ESL 103. Similar to the results above, there are considerable drop-offs in progression, success, and pass rates as the time lapse between ESL 103 and English 100 gets larger.

Table 2
ESL 103 to English 100

	N	%Succ	%Pass
1st Sem	225	81.3	88.0
2nd Sem	83	68.7	74.7
3rd Sem	24	54.2	58.3
4th Sem	20	45.0	50.0

Tables 3 – 6 provide the results of success and pass rate by instructor. We found that delayed enrollment in English 100 produced lower success and pass rates, which is consistent with the findings above. The success rate by instructor for the first semester ranged from 74.3 to 89.1. Instructor E was left out of the comparison due to low student enrollment.

Table 3
ESL 103 to English 100 1st Semester
By Instructor*

Instructor	N	%Succ	%Pass
A	55	89.1	90.9
B	49	83.7	89.8
C	35	74.3	85.7
D	40	75.0	87.5
E	18	72.2	77.8

*Section ## 1874 unable to determine faculty member

Table 4
ESL 103 to English 100 2nd Semester
By Instructor*

Instructor	N	%Succ	%Pass
A	14	78.6	78.6
B	18	61.1	66.7
C	18	72.2	83.3
D	6	33.3	50.0
E	13	69.2	76.9

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Table 5
ESL 103 to English 100 3rd Semester
By Instructor*

Instructor	N	%Succ	%Pass
A	4	75.0	100.0
B	8	37.5	37.5
C	5	100.0	100.0
D	2	50.0	50.0
E	3	0.0	0.0

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Table 6
ESL 103 to English 100 4th Semester
By Instructor*

Instructor	N	%Succ	%Pass
A	2	0.0	0.0
B	11	45.5	54.5
C	1	100.0	100.0
D	1	100.0	100.0
E	3	33.3	33.3

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APPENDIX A
 Progression, Success, Pass Rates
 By Semester and Section Number

ENGLISH 100

ALL INSTRUCTORS	ALL ESL 103	ESL TO ENG	Semesters since ESL 103			
			1st	2nd	3rd	4th
OVERALL Grade # Distribution						
A	61	45	16	5	2	1
B	118	79	42	9	1	1
C	54	25	36	11	2	1
CR	2	1	0	0	0	0
D	28	10	5	1	0	1
F	28	6	2	2	1	0
I	2	0	1	2	1	0
NC	4	2	1	0	0	0
W	13	3	6	2	3	1
Total	310	171	109	32	10	5
# Success	235	150	94	25	5	3
# Pass	263	160	99	26	5	4

ENGLISH 100

ALL INSTRUCTORS	ALL ESL 103	ESL TO ENG	Semesters since ESL 103			
			1st	2nd	3rd	4th
OVERALL Grade % Distribution						
A	19.7	26.3	14.7	15.6	20.0	20.0
B	38.1	46.2	38.5	28.1	10.0	20.0
C	17.4	14.6	33.0	34.4	20.0	20.0
CR	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
D	9.0	5.8	4.6	3.1	0.0	20.0
F	9.0	3.5	1.8	6.3	10.0	0.0
I	0.6	0.0	0.9	6.3	10.0	0.0
NC	1.3	1.2	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0
W	4.2	1.8	5.5	6.3	30.0	20.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
% Success	75.8	87.7	86.2	78.1	50.0	60.0
% Pass	84.8	93.6	90.8	81.3	50.0	80.0