AB 705 Experience: Student Class Experience Survey

January, 2021

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Introduction

This study was designed to gain a better understanding of the student experience for those entering Palomar College under the implementation of AB 705, which went into effect in the fall term of 2019. The study gave focus to perceived placement accuracy, alignment of enrollments with recommendations, and the fit of the course enrolled in to the students' needs and plans. This study is part of a larger research project on the implementation of AB 705. The larger project includes a Student Registration Survey of first-time Palomar College students that was conducted during the registration period for the current term. This report includes a description of the data, the results, and a brief summary. Appendix A includes the text of the survey questions. Appendix B contains the students' reasons for not following their placement recommendations, and student comments are displayed in Appendix C.

Data

The data come from an online survey of first-time Palomar students enrolled in English or math, conducted during the Fall 2020 term. The survey was conducted from October 13 to November 2. These first-time Palomar students enrolled in English or math received an email invitation to complete the survey, followed by up to three reminders. A total of 368 surveys were completed, with 187 students responding to the English questionnaire and 181 responding to the math questionnaire.

The previously conducted Student Registration Survey included all first-time students at Palomar prior to the Fall 2020 term. The sampling frame for the present survey is a subset of that for the Student Registration Survey. This survey is limited to those first-time students who enrolled in English or math for the Fall 2020 term.
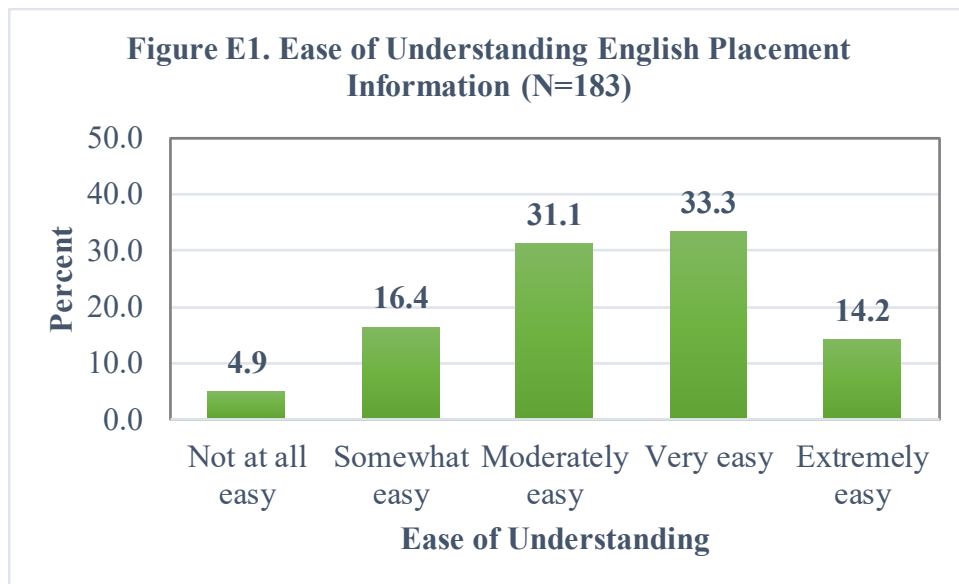
Results

English

English Placement Recommendations

Students enrolled in English generally found their English placement understandable. Figure E1 shows that almost half (47.5%) of the respondents found the placement very or extremely easy to understand, and three quarters (78.7%) found it at least moderately easy to understand. Figure E2 shows that most (85.0%) of the respondents reported that they followed their English course recommendation, though one in ten (10.2%) of the respondents were not sure whether or not they had followed their recommendation. Those who did not follow their English course recommendation were asked why they did not follow it. Because few respondents fell into this category, their responses are combined with the responses for math students, and are presented in Appendix B.

Figure E1. Ease of Understanding English Placement Information (N=183)

Figure E2. Followed Placement Recommendation in English

Chart showing "Percent" on the y-axis (0.0 to 100.0) and "Followed Placement Recommendation" categories on the x-axis:
- Yes: 85.0
- No: 4.8
- Not Sure: 10.2
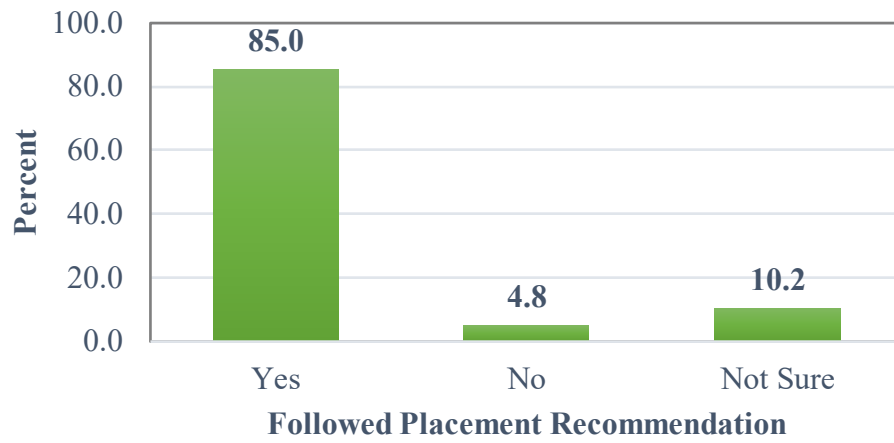
Placement Accuracy

Students' perception of placement accuracy was examined through questions regarding how challenging the course was and whether or not the course was the right level for them. The large majority (89.7%) of respondents believed that the course they were in was appropriately challenging, as indicated in Figure E3. Figure 4 illustrates that almost all (97.1%) of the respondents believed they were in the right level course.

Figure E3. How Challenging Course Material Is in English Course

How Challenging Course Material Is	Percent
Not Challenging Enough	3.8
Appropriately Challenging	89.7
Too Challenging	6.5

Figure E4. Level of Recommended Course in English Course (N=174)

Level of Recommended Course	Percent
Too High	1.7
Right Level	97.1
Too Low	1.1
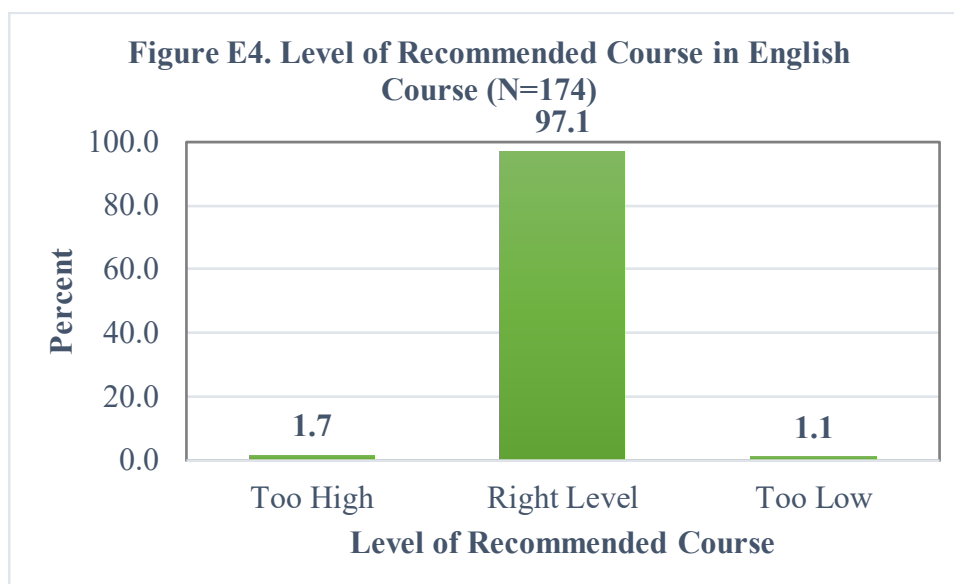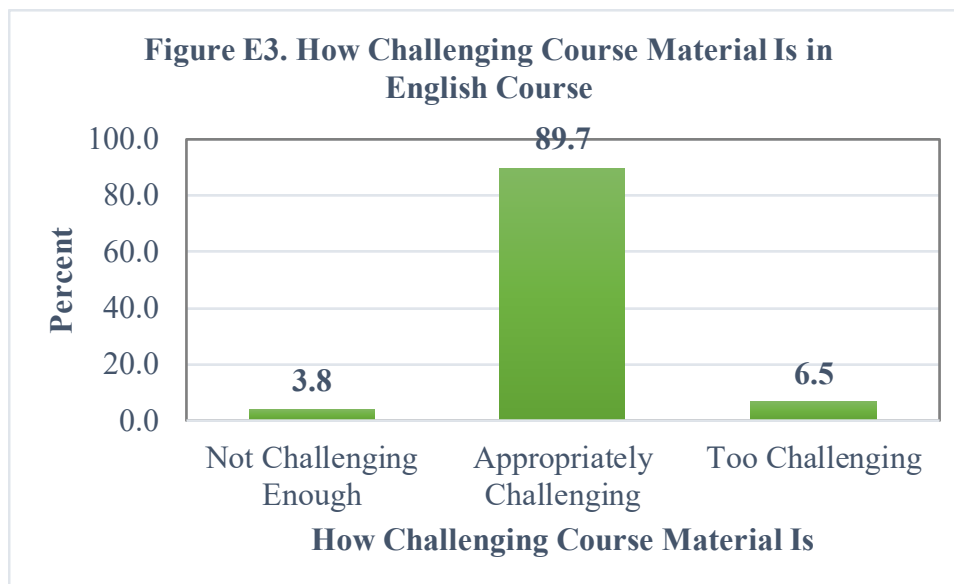
Ability to Succeed

This study examined student perceptions of their ability to succeed in the class in which they enrolled. Almost none (1.6%) of the students reported that they lacked the ability to succeed in their English course, as shown in Figure E5. About two thirds (68.6%) of the students said that they were very or extremely likely to succeed. This is seen in Figure E6. Figure E7 shows that 63.2% of the respondents reported being very or extremely confident that they could learn the material in their class.

Figure E5. Student Has the Ability to Succeed in Class in English Course (N=187)

Student Has the Ability to Succeed in Class	Percent
Yes	85.0
Maybe	13.4
No	1.6

Figure E6. Likelihood of Success in English Course (N=185)

Likelihood of Success	Percent
Not at all likely	2.2
Somewhat likely	9.7
Moderately likely	19.5
Very likely	44.3
Extremely likely	24.3
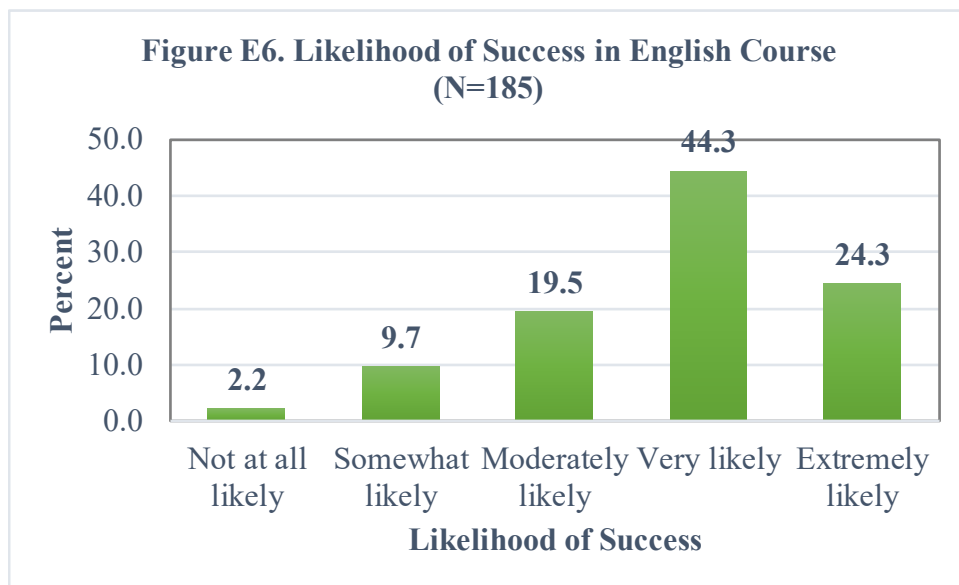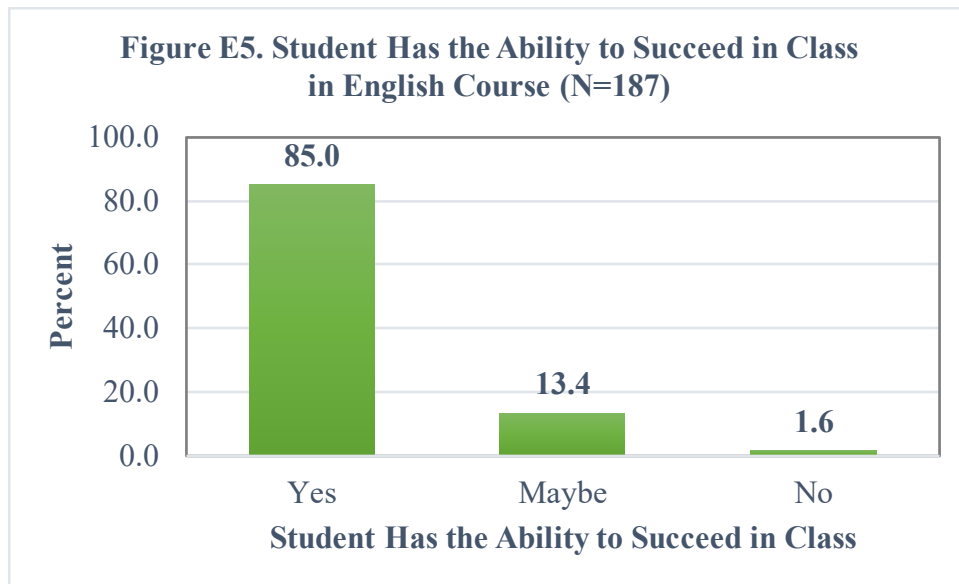
Figure E7. Confidence That They Can Learn the Material in English Course (N=185)
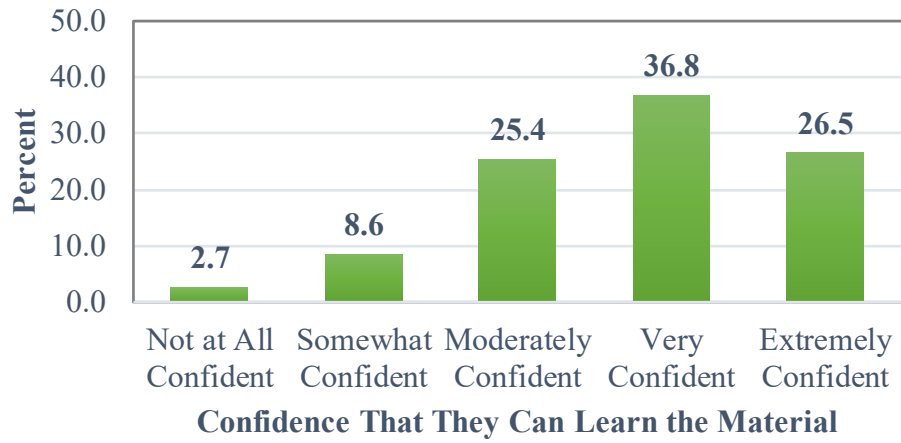
Class Fit

Figure E8 shows that most (71.4%) students perceived that they mostly or completely belong in their English class. Students also reported that they were motivated to do well in their class, as indicated in Figure E9.

Figure E8. Student Belongs in the Class in English (N=182)

Student Belongs in the Class	Percent
Not at All Belong	3.8
Somewhat Belong	8.8
Moderately Belong	15.9
Mostly Belong	36.3
Completely Belong	35.2
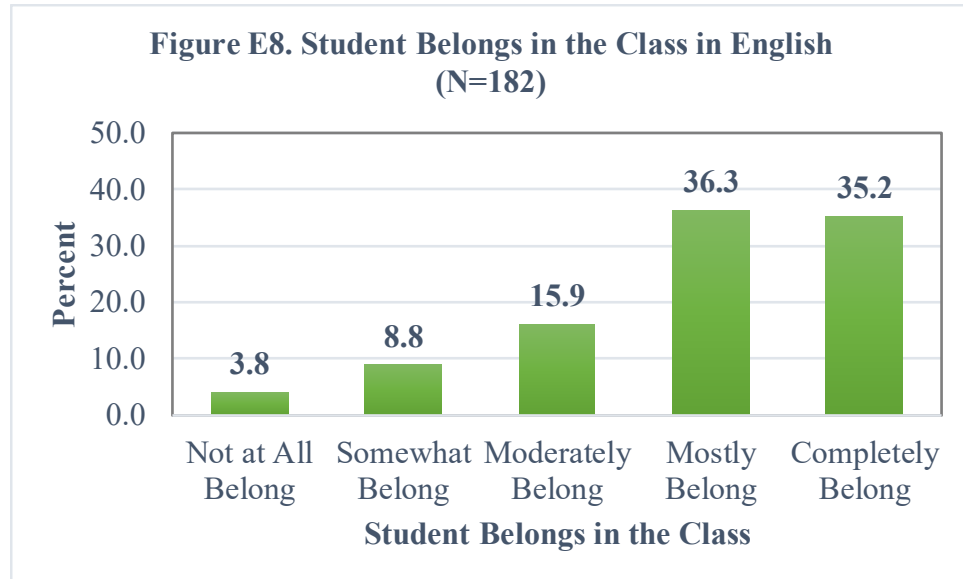
Figure E9. Motivated to Do Well in the Class in English (N=186)
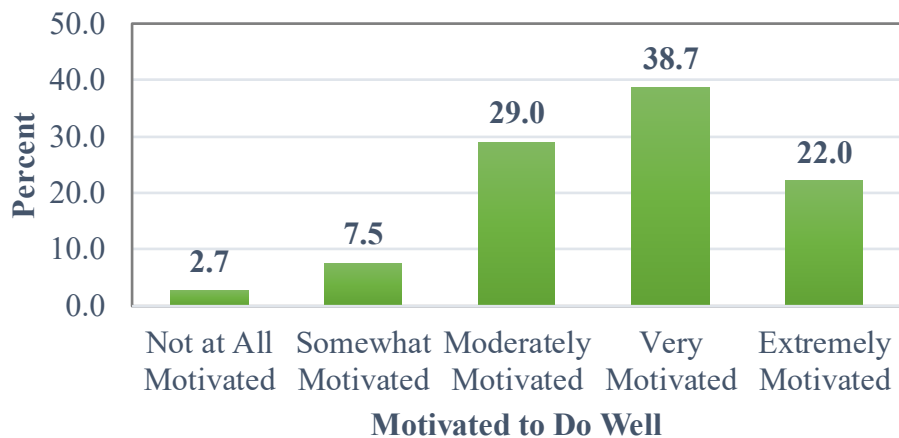
Path

Students were most likely (60.5%) to report that they were moderately clear on what English course or courses they needed to reach their academic goals, as illustrated in Figure E10. Table E1 shows the distribution of responses to questions about how the course they are in fits into their plans.
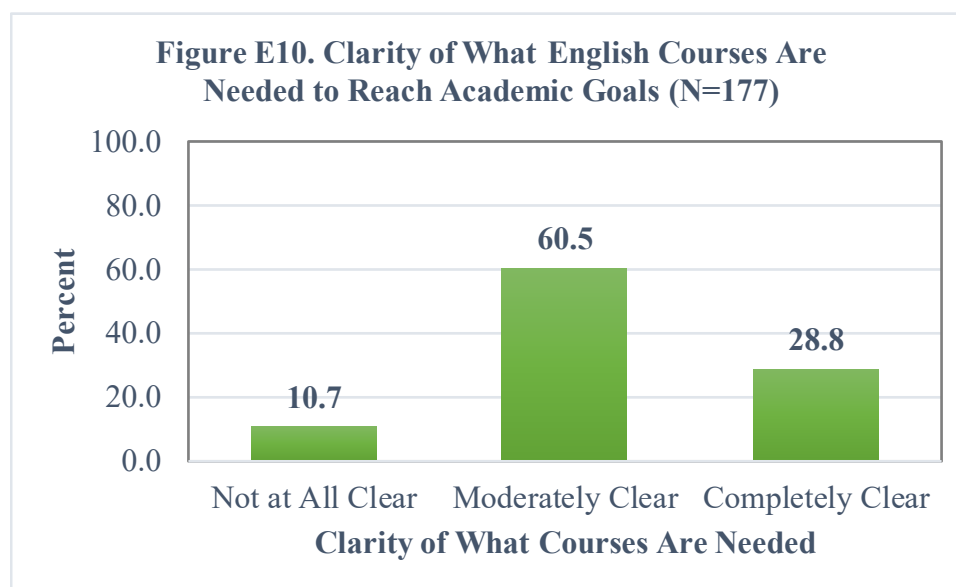
Figure E10. Clarity of What English Courses Are Needed to Reach Academic Goals (N=177)

Table E1. English Course on the Student's Path				
English Course on the Student's Path	This Class Fits into Goals at Palomar		Class Has Student on the Right Path	
	N	Percent	N	Percent
Not at All	10	5.5%	10	5.4%
Somewhat	23	12.6%	21	11.4%
Moderately	40	22.0%	39	21.1%
Mostly	63	34.6%	67	36.2%
Completely	46	25.3%	48	25.9%
Total	182	100.0%	185	100.0%

Suggestions for Making the English Placement Process Easier

Students offered suggestions for making the English placement process easier. The suggestions were most likely to be focused on getting more information and meeting with counselors. Respondents also sought better information and greater clarity.

Table E2. Suggestions to Make the Placement Process Easier
a better explanation as to why its neccessary
A chart you can actually see or a place that shows what classes you should take next.
A correct educational planner. I got the wrong one sent to me.
A list made up from students from the past years that show their most recommend and/or classes more commonly taken for my degree.
A list of classes needed to transfer. I was just given what classes to take first. I don't know what classes I need to take next semester or beyond.
A sheet saying the class recommendations
Access to people who have knowledge in your field and can help guide you on the best path.
Actually talking to a counselor
adding why the student should take the recommended classes and maybe several recommendations, not just one
As long as you know to contact your counselor and get a full education plan, it is very simple to understand which classes to take.
Asking the student what their career choice is and guiding them to take the right classes the student will need.
At the beginning of the year the counselors told me different things regarding which classes I should take considering my major, I have it all figured out now but at the time it was extremely frustrating.
Being able to communicate with a person on campus who helps make educational career pathways.
Being able to communicate with counselors efficiently would definitely make the process easier. I was a bit lost when initially choosing my classes because there were no counselors available to guide me through the process and as a first generation student, I didn't really have anyone to help me through the process. After speaking to a counselor ([NAME REDACTED]) it was clear as to what classes I need to complete my education at Palomar.
Definitely more meetings with counselors, the counselor I met with over zoom was very helpful and getting the list of all the classes offered at palomar was also very helpful.

Table E2. Suggestions to Make the Placement Process Easier (Continued)
Do the replacement test to see what level I am in.
Easier to get time with a counselor SOON versus waiting a week or two for an appointment.
Explanation of the course placements during counseling appointments for enrollment plans
Having a full plan
Having better resources to find what class is the best to take.
Having counselors let you know what classes we need to complete and belong in.
Having more dates for office hours and not for an hour
Having one to one communication
Honestly i don't think we can get any better than this.
I am working on my Associate's Degree in Nursing, and the prerequisites are all listed on the Palomar website so it's easy to find. The only thing I would appreciate is if the classes could be in order from what you should take first and what you should end with.
I can't think of anything else that's not already done
I do not recall ever receiving a recommendation, I also did not meet with a counselor until 2 or 3 weeks into the semester. What courses I should take are still somewhat unclear but that is because I still don't know what university I will transfer too.
I don't know
i dont know
I find it very helpful to talk to a school counselor about what classes to take relating to your major.
I got good information. No complaints. :]
I met with my counselor about an education plan for the next 2 years which was very helpful!
I think it was easy to understand when I talked to a counselor because I had AP scores but I wasn't sure what English it counted for.
I think that the class is great because I feel the professor can really understand his students and also helps with any student that doesn't understand the material.
I think what would make it easier is being able to have more time on the assignments but overall I think that the program has done a very amazing job in the process of the classes.
I thought the process we used was easy and efficient.
I was able to easily understand what class to take.
I was misinformed that I would need to take a math/english placement test. I studied for 2 months, only to find out that the placement test was discontinued and the website was not updated.
Id talk to my counselor and help me choose the right classes for me.
If I were provided with the list of classes that are required to get an Associate's or the list of what classes are required to get a Bachelor's as a CSU.

Table E2. Suggestions to Make the Placement Process Easier (Continued)
If the students check the recommendations given and base course on that if not something close. Also having an idea of what the student wants to achieve, either time spent at palomar, or career wise.
If you guys required to meet up with a counselor just to make it clear because I know some friends that were completely confused on what classes they had to take.
In my case, I switched major goals after choosing all my classes, but it shouldn't really affect my English classes. I think it would be easy knowing more about transfer programs to UCs.
It was easier to know what English classes I needed to take and after talking to my counselor I took the class recommended for me. It was easier to know my needed English class and than trying to find the right math class.
It was easy to know what class I could take.
It was super easy, I wouldn't change anything
It was unclear when I signed up what the class was focused on. All I was told was that it was and English class, and I would have liked to know that it was focused on South American culture.
It was very easy for me to find out what class I needed to take because I met with a counselor
It would be easier for students if the course was placed on student services page.
It's fine
Just improve the website. Navigation is difficult, links are incorrect, everything is just way harder than it needs to be.
Just more time explaining it
Just to have more help offered
Knowing what you want to do, so you can plan what classes help the most.
Litteraly nothing could have prepared me for this much work. I have a really hard time focusing in things and this calls is the hardest class i have ever taken. I cant so any of my assingmenst without stressing and having an anxisety attack. This teacher is horrible and doesnt care about his students at all. He gives no miotiviation to have his students succeed which makes this calss even harder to take. Ther is no physical possible way that i am going to be able to pass this class.
Making a zoom meeting or talking with the counselor about your classes.
Making an education plan has helped me know what classes to take.
Maybe a more clear explanation, i feel there is so much research in knowing what class is best to take
Maybe giving recommendations based on your past experience with the course and in classrooms.
Maybe if there was a chart that explained the different English classes and why some students are placed in them

Table E2. Suggestions to Make the Placement Process Easier (Continued)
Maybe send notifications/reminders to send in AP Scores more often/sooner
Maybe showing examples of the work would be easier.
maybe suggestions on different paths for classes
Meeting with counselors at the end of this semester.
More discussions regarding specific ideas from the books we read
more personal advice
More time to go over rough drafts
My English class is excellent, i like how out professor gives us the lecture
n/a
N/A
N/A. I think the guide is very well organized with classes/courses to take, as well as the counselors helping out.
Not sure
Not sure
not sure, it's fine already
Nothing! Everything you guys are doing works wonderfully for me!
One idea might be to have a section on the description of the course that provides information on other courses that are similar to that one. This could help students pick classes that are most similar to their academic goal.
Prior knowledge of exactly what courses to take, before beginning to sign up for classes before the fall semester.
probably english having it on zoom
Probably just a more simple advising guide for the course requirements. It is a little difficult to understand without a counselor.
Prompt, accurate response from your counseling department. I registered for my classes and contacted the counseling department in the mid-summer, but did not receive an email until two weeks ago. I do not need their help, but prompt, general guidance would have been appreciated at the time.
Ratings of the assignments and how the instructor teaches and stays organized without confusing the students in the work.
Recommended teachers, class numbers to search, and easily reachable counselors.
Take placement survey at student Palomar.
Taking a small test in high school to know when u regestrate
Talk with a counselor to see my level in each class
talking about what i potentially want to be or do, when out of school, and give me the exact courses i need to take to get there
Talking to a counselor to help navigate what classes to take.
The ability to have a career plan made for you once you get to Palomar so there is no confusion about what classes to take.

Table E2. Suggestions to Make the Placement Process Easier (Continued)
The easiest way to know what class I should be taking is by taking a test that involves English and have the school decide what English I should be placed in.
The process of finding this class was easy and clear. I love this class, and the professor does a great job teaching making it easier to follow along; and she wants us to succeed and helps us. I appreciate her and her class.
The process of knowing for this class in easy enough to understand.
The process would be easier if I had talked to a counselor.
The topics that are going to be taught.
This question isn't applicable to me because I am taking classes at Palomar only for this semester with the goal of enrolling at USC as a Spring Admit later.
To be in person, but that is not possible at the moment.
To have a major in mind once you choose classes.
Use Learning tools to be successful in that specific course.
What courses are required for graduation; What courses would contribute to the path I want to take
When one is choosing which classes to enroll in it would be nice if anywhere on the screen it would say the level of English that's equired to be taken.
With the class that i'm taking, it's challenging. However, it makes it really hard for me to succeed because the professor has no clear instructions and when asked to explain, she responds with reread the instruction. I'm relatively good with understanding what I got to do, but in this class, it is really hard. I have great motivation for all of my other classes except this one. That is due to the unwilling of the professor to explain the assignments with more detail and clarity.

Comments

Students were asked if they had any other comments on the topics covered in the questionnaire. These comments are found in Appendix C.
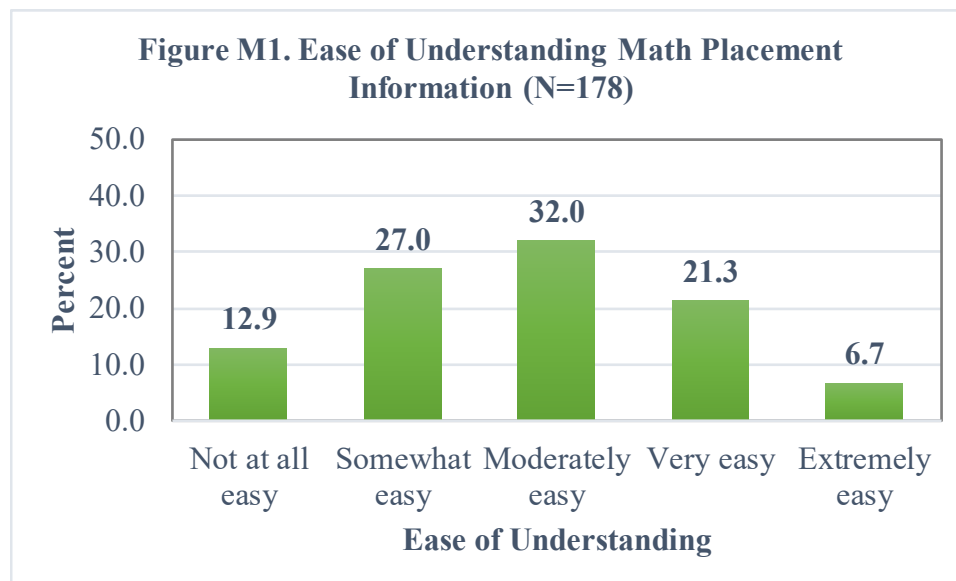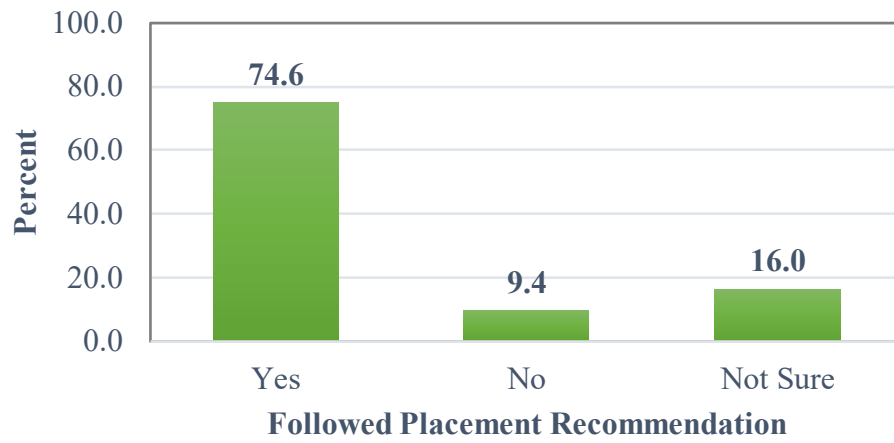
Math

Math Placement Recommendations

First-time students enrolled in math tended to find their placement information understandable. Figure M1 shows that 28.1% of the respondents found the math placement very or extremely easy to understand, and three fifths (60.1%) found it at least moderately easy to understand. Figure M2 shows that three quarters (74.6%) of the respondents reported that they followed their math course recommendation, though one in six (16.0%) of the respondents were not sure whether or not they had followed their recommendation. Those who did not follow their math course recommendation were asked why they did not follow it. Because few respondents fell into this category, their responses are combined with the responses for English, and are presented in Appendix B.

Figure M1. Ease of Understanding Math Placement Information (N=178)

Ease of Understanding	Percent
Not at all easy	12.9
Somewhat easy	27.0
Moderately easy	32.0
Very easy	21.3
Extremely easy	6.7

Figure M2. Followed Placement Recommendation in Math (N=181)

Placement Accuracy

Students' perception of placement accuracy were reflected by measures of how challenging the course was and whether or not the course was the right level for them. Figures M3 an M4 show that four out of five (81.5%) of respondents believed that the course they were in was appropriately challenging, and most (83.7%) of the respondents believed they were in the right level course.

Figure M3. How Challenging Course Material Is in Math Course

Figure M4. Level of Recommended Course in Math Course (N=147)
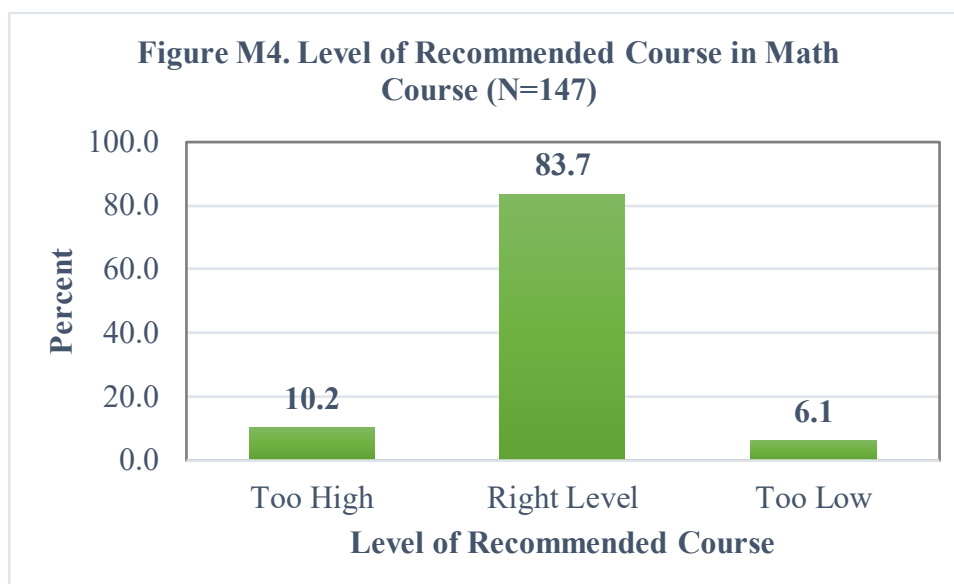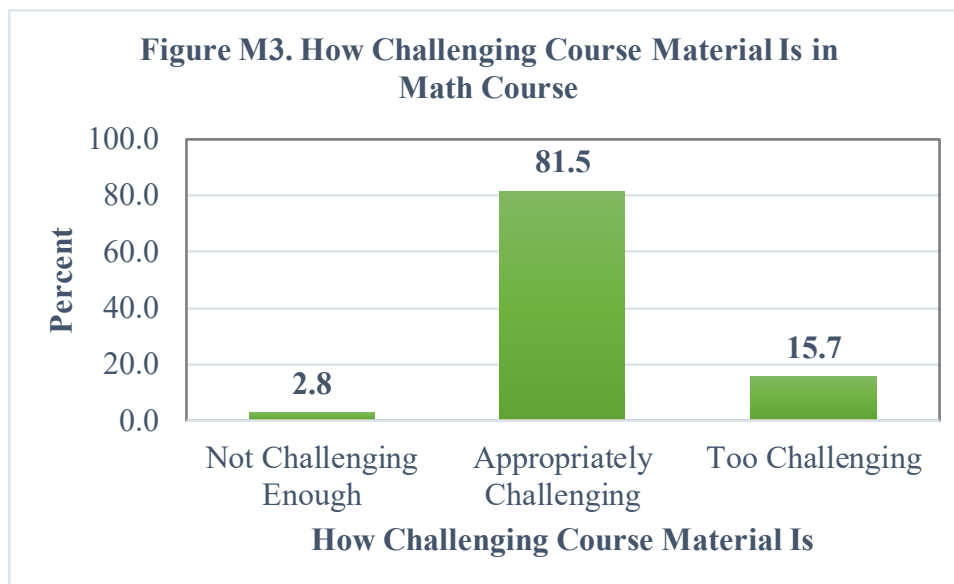
Ability to Succeed

Student perceptions of their ability to succeed in the class in which they enrolled were examined. While 70.0% of the students reported that they had the ability to succeed in their math course, 45.2% believed they were very or extremely likely to succeed. This is illustrated in Figures M5 and M6. Figure M7 shows that 44.2% of the respondents reported that they were very or extremely confident that they could learn the material in their class.

Figure M5. Student Has the Ability to Succeed in Class in Math Course (N=180)

Percent

- Yes: 70.0
- Maybe: 23.3
- No: 6.7

Student Has the Ability to Succeed in Class

Figure M6. Likelihood of Success in Math Course (N=177)

Percent

- Not at all likely: 8.5
- Somewhat likely: 19.2
- Moderately likely: 27.1
- Very likely: 32.2
- Extremely likely: 13.0

Likelihood of Success
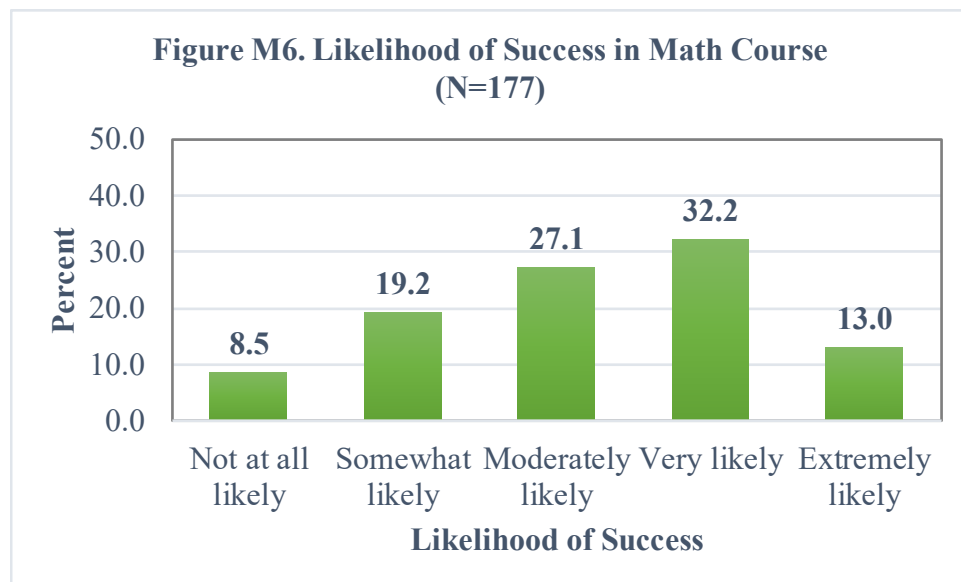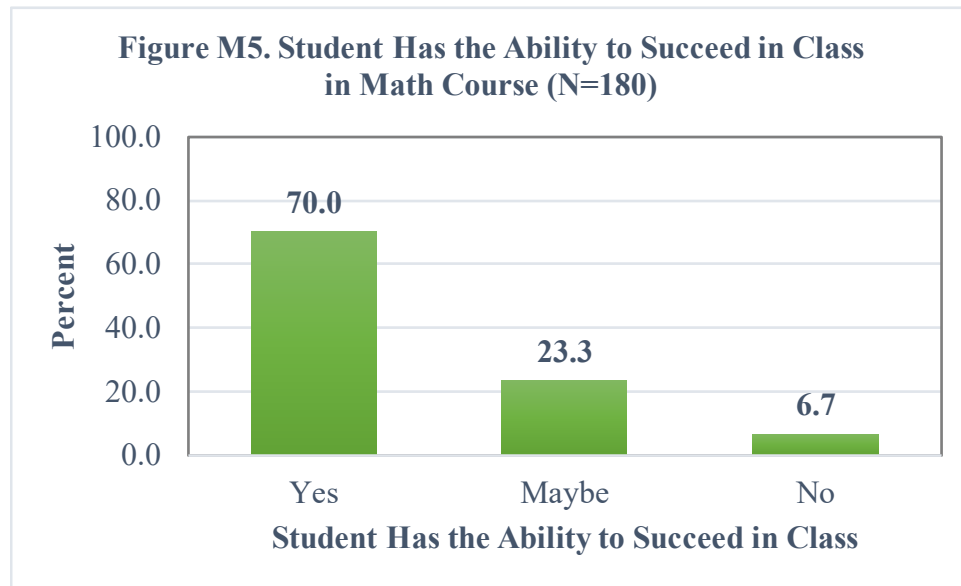
Figure M7. Confidence That They Can Learn the Material in Math Course (N=181)

Confidence That They Can Learn the Material	Percent
Not at All Confident	7.2
Somewhat Confident	20.4
Moderately Confident	28.2
Very Confident	32.6
Extremely Confident	11.6
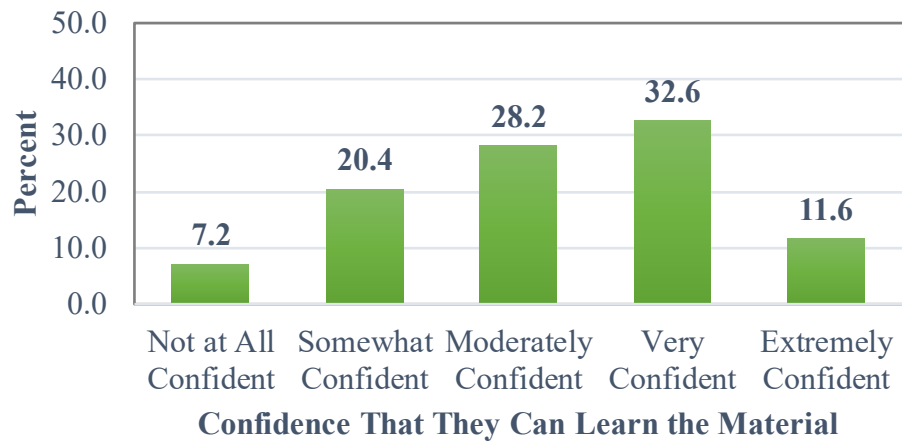
Class Fit

Half (48.9%) of the students perceived that they mostly or completely belong in their math class. This is seen in Figure M8. Students also reported that they were, on average, moderately to very motivated to do well in their class, as indicated in Figure M9.

Figure M8. Student Belongs in the Class in Math (N=180)

Category	Percent
Not at All Belong	3.9
Somewhat Belong	17.8
Moderately Belong	29.4
Mostly Belong	28.9
Completely Belong	20.0

Student Belongs in the Class

Figure M9. Motivated to Do Well in the Class in Math (N=181)

Category	Percent
Not at All Motivated	5.0
Somewhat Motivated	11.6
Moderately Motivated	26.5
Very Motivated	35.4
Extremely Motivated	21.5

Motivated to Do Well

Path

More than a third (35.2%) of the students reported that they were completely clear on what math course or courses they needed to reach their academic goals, as illustrated in Figure M10. Table M1 shows that most respondents believed that the course they were in fits into their plans.
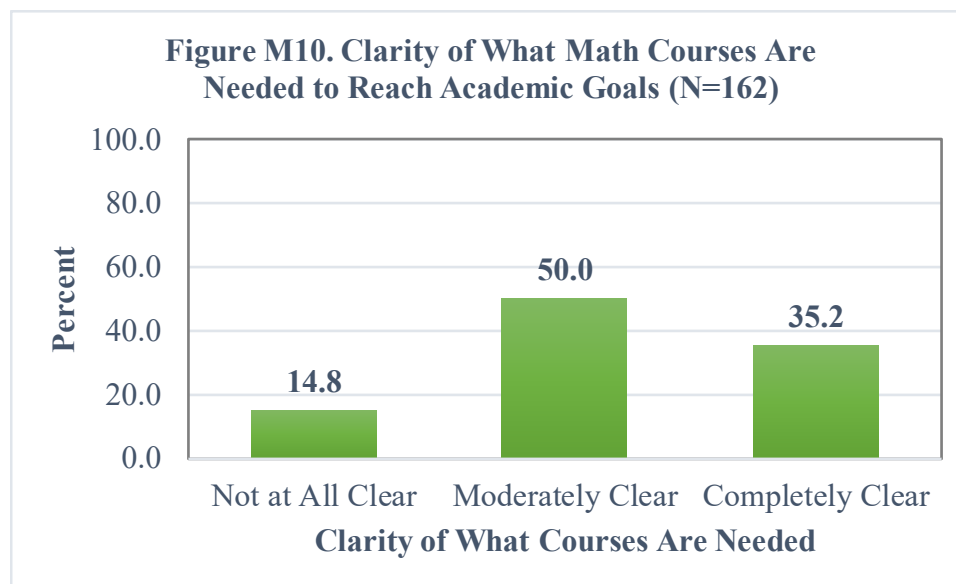
Figure M10. Clarity of What Math Courses Are Needed to Reach Academic Goals (N=162)

Clarity	Percent
Not at All Clear	14.8
Moderately Clear	50.0
Completely Clear	35.2

Clarity of What Courses Are Needed

Table M1. Math Course on the Student's Path

Math Course on the Student's Path	This Class Fits into Goals at Palomar		Class Has Student on the Right Path	
	N	Percent	N	Percent
Not at All	10	5.8%	13	7.4%
Somewhat	31	17.9%	21	12.0%
Moderately	48	27.7%	43	24.6%
Mostly	45	26.0%	58	33.1%
Completely	39	22.5%	40	22.9%
Total	173	100.0%	175	100.0%

Suggestions for Making the Math Placement Process Easier

Students offered suggestions for making the math placement process easier. The suggestions were most likely to be focused on getting more information, meeting with counselors, or getting better or clearer information.

Table M2. Suggestions to Make the Placement Process Easier
a clearer description of the type of math class, it was hard to distinguish math levels that were relatively close in numbers
A math pathway that shows all the math class available and shows what math class to take next.
A more specific survey before enrolling in a course to see what level of math is most comfortable for the student.
A phone call or video chat with a counselor.
A summary of what type of material you cover in chosen class
Asking students for math level and past courses taken.
Asking what math the student is currently in and their when they are trying to find placement. That way if they are still working on a class, Palomar can place them in a math class one step above that if they passed the class.
Better communication between student and counselor or academic advisor
Clear instructions to talk to counselor prior or during term to discuss educational plan.
COVID made scheduling appointments with academic counselors harder, but I was able to schedule one. One on one appointment really helped me know what math class I should take. Individualized help is the best way to make knowing which math class to take easier.
Giving descriptions of the classes
Going through more proofs to be understand the concepts of the math
having a description of how professors teach
Having a detailed chart on the website that could tell you what math courses are needed for your major and which ones you need depending on if you took APs in high school. My councilor helped me in the end
Having better resources to find what class is the best to take.
How well your background is with math in past expirences
I had no trouble in knowing what math course to take do to my counselors help.
I believe having the ability to use prior notes would be beneficial. With COVID and other classes, memorizing the formulas and algorithms is not entirely accessible to certain students. Every other class I have, I have excellent grades but with my math class, there's a significant difference. In addition, there's little to no retention of the material.

Table M2. Suggestions to Make the Placement Process Easier (Continued)
I believe it's fine the way it is, I didn't have a difficult time finding what my placement in math was.
I believe the process is fine with already giving a suggestion of what class to take.
I believe this is the only math course that I need to take for my major and a counselor helped me select this class.
I don't know
i don't know
I don't know, the class is very good
I dont know
i dont know i think just asking the student what course they would prefer and they should be smart enough to know what their ability is based on what they took in HS.
I dont think my class is the problem. Its the way its being taught by my teacher. he is awesome person but we don't have much guidance or examples or recorded videos to reference.
I dont't know
I got good information. No complaints here :]
I guess perhaps explaining which one would be beneficial for us and perhaps telling us which one to start off with
I reached out to my counselor but never heard back. Instead, a list of classes appeared when I was enrolling in classes. It would have helped to talk to a counselor about my goals so they could help me in understanding what classes were significant in reaching my goals.
I really believe that students need a educational environment (school and classrooms) to succeed in any class because it eliminates home distractions. I and all most everyone else just want to leave their home and go to school. Other then that I think that the math placement was good and gave me a good math class recommendation.
I say math 60 is more easier to stay with because it helps me to be more advanced
I think everything is fine in the way they find your math class!
I think it was very straightforward.
I think taking a placement test would definitely help a lot.
I think that it was easy, however, it was hard to understand what class u needed to take for your specific major.
I think the Palomar staff did a great job on choosing what math class I should take.
I think the placement tests from highschool should be conducted during Senior year to gauge more accurate results, but having to process that information will probably make it impossible.
I think the process of knowing what taking class is clear.
I thought the process was clear and effective. Not much needs to change and I have no additional suggestions.

Table M2. Suggestions to Make the Placement Process Easier (Continued)
I would like in class lectures but that couldn't happen do to Covid-19 which made learning the material a little bit harder.
I would like it if there could be more information given about what kind of math classes to take because I wasn't really given much information about it. I had to get the right information from my counselor. Maybe in the future, it can go more in-depth about what classes need to be taken and why.
I would like more if our professor gave lectures live, not just post the content and us trying to understand it
I'm a Spring Admit for another institution so I'm sorry but I can't answer this question.
I'm not really sure because it was quite clear to me what my options were and I choose what class I wanted to take.
I'm not sure
I'd say it was pretty clear so I wouldn't change much.
I'm not sure
I'm not sure, maybe a smaller list of math classes could be given after talking to a counselor to see what fits your needs.
If I take the math placement test, I could know what math class to take.
If I were provided with what Math classes are required for an Associate's or what math classes are required for a Bachelor's at a CSU.
if it was on canvas instead of a separate website
If our counselors took into account that we want to transfer.
if the counselors would actually tell you which classes to take directly. i had no idea i needed to sign up for TWO classes as a support and regular class.
If you could see some of the material before hand.
in this class I learn a lot to know what class to take
Instead of placing the student into a group, just telling them where they've been placed right in myPalomar could make it simpler.
It has been 30 years since I've attended college, so leaping straight in to Algebra is difficult. The pace is covering way too much material too fast, so it is difficult to actually "learn" the material. While I scored 100 in Algebra 30 years ago, I am scoring about 50 now. It is very frustrating.
it is fine the way it is now.
It was challenging to get in contact with a counselor about my academic plan.
It would make it easier if councelors were available to have meetings with students, especially first year students.
It's fine
Just have more explanations and samples about each assignment
Knowing how you did on your previous years in math and knowing your strengths personally.

Table M2. Suggestions to Make the Placement Process Easier (Continued)
Knowing if you've had a hard time with math for a long time or is it just something that you are challenging with.
Knowing that I was placed in a higher class than I should've been ahead of time
Knowing the professor and their teaching style.
Knowing what math classes are mandatory for a major, maybe make it more clear.
Knowing what topics that are going to be taught.
Knowing your academic goals
Knowledge of how the teacher teaches.
Let first year students talk to counselors about their courses and education plan. I don't know anything about mine. I was just given classes for the semester and that's it.
List of reasons why the math class was recommended
Making it easier to contact the counselors. It has been really difficult during quarantine to get a meeting with one.
Map of what classes are needed for specific majors. Fix issues with website, especially navigation and incorrect links. Have a place that says what the next level math class is and recommend 1 math class.
math placement tests enforced more
Maybe a chart or list or something that shows what classes should be taken in which order.
maybe a placement exam before enrollment to see what type of material we would be covering and see how we feel about it
Maybe by making the class half an hour shorter because after 2 hours sitting in-front of a screen something feels a little long for a computer. I feel for 1 hour and half is a good time to class because I feel I am able to concentrate on the content provided.
Maybe discuss what the letter groups mean a bit more clearly. What does the letter identify exactly.
maybe have a list of topics that were going to be taught in the math class so if you read it and you know if you have learn those or never even heard them. then you also will know if you need to take a class to prepare for this class.
Maybe talk a counselor.
Meeting with a councilor to discuss academic plans and courses that are best suited for you.
meeting with a counselor
Meeting with a counselor after the first six weeks of the course to determine placement into appropriate level math course for the following spring semester.
Meeting with a counselor. [Up to the student.]
more personal advice
More practice
N/A

Table M2. Suggestions to Make the Placement Process Easier (Continued)
No
No clue
No comment.
Not as complicated equations and making the test easier and making the content of the class a little bit more understandable
Not really. I struggle with math - and this class is hard. But I MUST get a B or an A to continue the course and be ready to take the next level math (121/130) -which is required for an Accounting major. I need to be able to get a b or perhaps a C in the next higher Math - so I can gradutae with a bachelors degree in Accounting.
not sure
not sure, the process is fine as is
One to one communication
Possibly a "cheat sheet" for students so they know what the numbers mean. For instance, math 140. What does the 140 mean/cover?
Provide more examples and use step by step for a better understanding of the math process
Putting the class the student should that on the student services.
Several math recommendations
Since many students have are majoring in different areas I think it would be nice if under each major the student is planning on taking the math course would be included.
Take a placement test
Take a placement test to decide what skill level you have.
Take placement question at student Palomar. After that, see which group are you in and which class you can take.
Talk with a counselor about my classes
talking to a counselor about an academic plan but there aren't any appointments open
Talking to a counselor to help navigate math classes
Talking to the counselor about the placement
The Math Quizzes not being 2 questions in length. Allowing for me to possibly not worry about getting a 50% outcome. I get stressed because I am worried about failing.
The only reason I know what math classes I needed to take was that I made an appointment with a counselor
The Palomar registration process is altogether confusing and not streamlined; a concise email or chart per student would be helpful!
The process of finding the math class is easy; directions are obvious. I would have liked a different professor but they only recommended a class, not a professor.
To be able to see what math classes correlate to different AP classes and exams.

Table M2. Suggestions to Make the Placement Process Easier (Continued)
To be honest this math class is extremely difficult I will probably need a tutor! It's hard because of the terms and the many different ways there are to do the problems.
Well the class I took last year in High School can reflect on why course I would have to take.
Well, considering I recently found out I wasn't even supposed to take the class I'm in despite it the fact it was recommended to me by my counselor I'm confused. I just want to know this time that I'm taking a class that I actually need and not another waste of time that won't help me achieve my academic goals.

Comments

Students were asked if they had any other comments on the topics covered in the questionnaire. These comments are found in Appendix C.

Summary

Purpose & Data

The aim of this study was to provide information about the student experience that might be useful for Palomar's implementation of AB 705. Perceptions of placement accuracy, alignment of enrollments with recommendations, and the fit of the course enrolled in to the students' needs and plans were examined using data from an online student survey of first-time Palomar students who enrolled in English or math in the Fall 2020 term. A total of 368 surveys were completed: 187 English and 181 math.

First-time students enrolled in English expressed some measure of confusion about what courses to take. Half (48%) of the respondents found their English placement information very or extremely easy to understand, and 29% of students were completely clear on what English course or courses they needed to reach their academic goals. However, almost all (97%) of the respondents believed they were in the right level course. Suggestions for improvement most commonly addressed getting more information and meeting with counselors.

Math students indicated that placement information was not completely clear, with 28.1% of the respondents reporting that the math placement very or extremely easy to understand, and three fifths (60.1%) found it at least moderately easy to understand. Most (83.7%) of the respondents believed they were in the right level course. It is worth noting that while 70.0% of the first-time math students believed they had the ability to succeed in their course, 45.2% believed they were very or extremely likely to succeed.

Appendix A: Survey Questions

Course Recommendation

R1. How easy to understand was the information you received about what [SUBJECT] class you should take?

o   Not at all easy
o   Somewhat easy
o   Moderately easy
o   Very easy
o   Extremely easy

o   Don't know

R2. Did you enroll in an [SUBJECT] class that followed the recommendation you received when you applied?

o   Yes
o   No
o   Not sure

[ASK IF R2 = No]
R3. Why did you <u>not</u> follow the recommendation you received when you applied?

☐   I wasn't sure what class to enroll in.
☐   The course I wanted wasn't offered at a time or day I wanted to take it.
☐   The class I wanted to take was full.
☐   I am not sure I am ready to take class that was recommended.
☐   I didn't want to take that many units.
☐   I didn't want to take English online.
☐   A counselor recommended a different class.
☐   I did not receive a recommendation.
☐   Other. Please specify _____

Placement Accuracy

A1. How challenging would you say the course material is in your [SUBJECT] class?

o   Not challenging enough
o   Appropriately challenging
o   Too challenging

o   Don't know

A2. Do you think that the level of the [SUBJECT] class recommended to you was the right level for you?

o   Yes
o   No [GOTO EA3]

o   Don't know

[ASK IF A2 = No]
A3. Was the recommended [SUBJECT] class …

o   Too high
o   Too low

o   Don't know

Capability of Success

C1. Do you think you have the ability to be successful in this class?

o   Yes
o   Maybe
o   No

C2. How likely would you say you are to succeed in your [SUBJECT] class?

o   Not at all likely
o   Somewhat likely
o   Moderately likely
o   Very likely
o   Extremely likely

o   Don't know

C3. How confident are you that you can learn the material in your [SUBJECT] class?

o   Not at all confident
o   Somewhat confident
o   Moderately confident
o   Very confident
o   Extremely confident

o   Don't know

Class Fit

F1. To what extent do you think you belong in this class?

o   Not at all belong
o   Somewhat belong
o   Moderately belong
o   Mostly belong
o   Completely belong

o   Don't know

F2. How motivated are you to do well in this class?

o   Not at all motivated
o   Somewhat motivated
o   Moderately motivated
o   Very motivated
o   Extremely motivated

o   Don't know

On the Right Path

P1. Do you have a clear idea of what [SUBJECT] course or courses you need to reach your academic goals?

o   Not at all clear
o   Moderately clear
o   Completely clear

o   Don't know

P2. To what extent do you think that this class fits in with what you are trying to achieve at Palomar?

o   Not at all
o   Somewhat
o   Moderately
o   Mostly
o   Completely

o   Don't know

P3. To what extent do you think that this class has you on the right path to reach your academic goals?

o   Not at all
o   Somewhat
o   Moderately
o   Mostly
o   Completely

o   Don't know

S1. What would make the process of knowing what [SUBJECT] class to take easier?

Comments

Comments. Do you have any other comments on the topics covered in this survey?

Appendix B: Reasons for Not Following Placement Recommendations

Table B1. Reasons for Not Following Course Recommendation for English or Math		
Reasons	N	Percent
Not Sure What Class to Enroll in	26	19.2%
Preferred Course Not Offered at a Desirable Time	26	3.8%
Preferred Course Was Full	26	3.8%
Was Not Ready to Take the Recommended Course	26	11.5%
Did Not Want to Take That Many Units	26	0.0%
Did Not Want to Take English Online	26	38.5%
Counselor Recommended a Different Course	26	11.5%
Other	26	38.5%

Table B2. Other Reason For Not Following Recommendation for English or Math
Because I neede to provide somw highschool documen
I didn't think I needed the support recommendation
I had already taken the recommended class
I was more advanced
It was a choice between MATH 60 and PSYCH 205
My APs qualified me for a higher level math class
Not the class that I needed for my intended 4 year
The class recommended to me was lower than the cla
Wanted to take a lighter math class I had previous

Table C1. Comments from First-time Students Enrolled in English

better description of courses
what is outlined in the assignments and hard to achieve without individual help from professor.
I do not have any other comments.
I don't know
I want to be reomved from this class and none of the counselors that i emailed responded back to me.
I want to take acting for my career, I wish to only just have theatre for a class instead of having the english class
I was pretty confident in finding the right class, but there could be more information provided to make it all clearer.
n/a
N/a
N/A
no
No
No :]
No comment.
No other comments.
No thank you
No, I do not.
No, I'm all good :]
no, thank you!!
No, thank you.
No.
None
nope
Nope
Nope!
nope.
Not at the moment.

Table C1. Comments from First-time Students Enrolled in English (Continued)
Online English classes are incredibly hard, especially when your teacher isn't good with technology. I'm having a very hard time connecting with my peers and my professor and I don't fully understand what to do and I feel like I don't get good feedback when I reach out to my professor. English classes suck online.
There's a lot of writing.
These surveys really helps students express their own opinions on their class.
This class is difficult, but the professor is inspiring.
This is too generic and the answers are vulnerable to change as the time passes in a certain course.
With classes being online and new to everyone, zoom classes should be offered to the more challenging classes, such as this one.

Table C2. Comments from First-time Students Enrolled in Math
to get help from teachers and have the same support system that we would have in person.
I do not have any other comments.
I dropped out of my math course several weeks ago because I believe the placement was wrong.
I know how to do the math but I will probably withdraw and retake the course because of challenges caused by covid.
I lean a lot and I'm happy to be in this class
My english class assigns 9 assignments a week
My teacher is great he makes the learning environment very fun even though its online he deserves much recognition for his hard work.
n/a
N/a
N/A
no
No
No comment.
No i don't :]
No thank you
No, I do not.
No, I'm all good :]
No, I'm good.

Table C2. Comments from First-time Students Enrolled in Math (Continued)
No, just that there should have been more consideration knowing a lot of students went from not being in school for months on end to being thrown into classes at full speed. Some are fine and others are harder to handle like math so i think there should have been steps taken to ease the transition.
No:]
No.
Nope
Nope! I like my math class and am thankful to be working toward my goals at Palomar.
nope.
Nope.
Personally finding the math class was very easy once I received my education plan.
Please open the campus. We want to come back to school.
The class moves too fast to really learn the material, especially since I have 2 other hard classes. I cannot wait to be finished with Math 130 [aka Math 121 at NAU, for business majors]. I just don't have the brain for the tougher concepts.
The information is information I can grasp however I feel as though my professor sometimes makes it more complicated than it seems.
the math class i took is not teaching me anything its just textbook and assignments, its no way of learning when the professor shows no support
The math is a bit frustrating to understand without a professor to help right then and there, but the class I am in made a group chat so that we can ask each other questions making it easier to understand the material sometimes. Overall it is a decent class and I am understanding it so far but I do rely on my notes a lot!
The math placement recommended for me was well suited for me. The amount of work load that I receive is just way too much.
The pace at which the course takes it somewhat difficult. Like many students, I work and am at school full time, therefore, it is really hard to juggle everything.
The surveys are helpful.
The teacher is a cool person.
This year is extremely difficult to find the motivation to do the work because of the lack of interaction between not only us and the teacher but us and the students aswell, which in my opinion is why i dont feel motivated to do well in this class.
we need more basic math classes and career-specific math classes.
Website is really difficult to use in pretty much all aspects.