



AB 705 Throughput Brief – 2021

This research brief examines throughput for English and math beginning with the Fall 2015 cohort. The students included in this analysis are the fall, first-time cohorts from each academic year. *Throughput* is defined as volume and percent of first-time students who complete transfer-level math and English in one year. Tables 1 and 2 show one-year throughput figures for English and math respectively, and Table 3 displays the one-year throughput for completion of both transfer-level English and math. Each of these tables are broken down by race and ethnicity.

Overall, English throughput increased from about 22% for the Fall 2015 cohort to about 40% for the Fall 2019 cohort, which is the first cohort to enter the college under full implementation of AB 705. Not only did the overall throughput rate increase by about 18 percentage points, but it increased for each of the subpopulations examined. For example, English throughput for Hispanic students was at 19.5% for the Fall 2015 cohort, which means one-out-of-five Hispanic students in the first-time cohort completed transfer-level English by the end of their first year. This rose to 38.7% for the Fall 2019 cohort – an increase of about 19 percentage points, showing a slight closure of the gap for Hispanic students.

Math throughput also increased from about 12% to about 19%, and all subpopulations increased their throughput rates. It is important to note that this math throughput measure, to be consistent with AB 705, requires completion of transfer-level math, not just degree-applicable math.

While throughput has increased substantially in both English and math, and gains have been made by all subpopulations, these tables reveal that gaps still exist for black and Hispanic students. For the Fall 2015 cohort black students had an English throughput rate of 15.3%, which is about seven percentage points below the overall rate of 22.7% for that cohort. For the 2019 cohort black students had a throughput rate of 28.0%, which is about 12 percentage points below the overall rate. Similarly, black students increased their math throughput rates from 5.8% to 7.9%, but still lost ground relative to other students. As noted above, Hispanic students increased their English throughput rate, and narrowed that gap slightly. However, their increase in the math throughput rate of 6.4 percentage points

did not quite keep pace with the overall increase of about 7 percentage points. Both black and Hispanic students had lower English and math throughput rates relative to other students, and while these subpopulations saw increases in their throughput rates post implementation of AB 705, the throughput gaps they have been experiencing were not meaningfully narrowed.

Table 1. English One-year Throughput for First-time Students by Ethnicity

Ethnicity	Fall 2015-16		Fall 2016-17		Fall 2017-18		Fall 2018-19		Fall 2019-20	
	N	Throughput	N	Throughput	N	Throughput	N	Throughput	N	Throughput
American Indian/Alaska Native	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Asian	158	34.8%	185	29.7%	193	35.8%	195	44.6%	173	55.5%
Black/African American	190	15.3%	167	15.0%	210	12.9%	189	22.8%	164	28.0%
Filipino	98	36.7%	85	35.3%	85	47.1%	103	57.3%	95	60.0%
Hispanic	2,215	19.5%	2,227	20.6%	2,242	27.0%	2,469	31.6%	2,296	38.7%
Pacific Islander	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
White	1,722	25.3%	1,713	27.7%	1,680	29.5%	1,656	37.8%	1,343	40.6%
Multi Ethnic	269	25.3%	244	27.9%	257	35.0%	277	33.6%	274	47.1%
Total	4,652	22.7%	4,621	23.9%	4,667	28.3%	4,889	34.3%	4,345	40.5%

Note: Categories with N < 40 are suppressed.

Table 2. Math One-year Throughput for First-time Students by Ethnicity

Ethnicity	Fall 2015-16		Fall 2016-17		Fall 2017-18		Fall 2018-19		Fall 2019-20	
	N	Throughput	N	Throughput	N	Throughput	N	Throughput	N	Throughput
American Indian/Alaska Native	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Asian	158	39.2%	185	31.4%	193	38.9%	195	31.3%	173	43.9%
Black/African American	190	5.8%	167	5.4%	210	6.7%	189	3.7%	164	7.9%
Filipino	98	23.5%	85	29.4%	85	30.6%	103	35.0%	95	33.7%
Hispanic	2,215	8.5%	2,227	7.9%	2,242	12.9%	2,469	14.5%	2,296	14.9%
Pacific Islander	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
White	1,722	13.4%	1,713	13.4%	1,680	16.3%	1,656	18.5%	1,343	22.1%
Multi Ethnic	269	17.1%	244	15.2%	257	21.0%	277	20.6%	274	25.5%
Total	4,652	12.0%	4,621	11.4%	4,667	15.5%	4,889	16.7%	4,345	19.1%

Note: Categories with N < 40 are suppressed.

Table 3. English & Math One-year Throughput for First-time Students by Ethnicity

Ethnicity	Fall 2015-16		Fall 2016-17		Fall 2017-18		Fall 2018-19		Fall 2019-20	
	N	Throughput	N	Throughput	N	Throughput	N	Throughput	N	Throughput
American Indian/Alaska Native	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Asian	158	22.2%	185	20.5%	193	24.9%	195	24.6%	173	32.9%
Black/African American	190	2.6%	167	4.8%	210	3.8%	189	2.6%	164	5.5%
Filipino	98	17.3%	85	14.1%	85	25.9%	103	29.1%	95	29.5%
Hispanic	2,215	4.7%	2,227	4.8%	2,242	9.5%	2,469	10.0%	2,296	12.1%
Pacific Islander	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
White	1,722	8.1%	1,713	8.8%	1,680	11.6%	1,656	14.1%	1,343	17.1%
Multi Ethnic	269	10.8%	244	8.6%	257	17.5%	277	14.8%	274	20.1%
Total	4,652	7.1%	4,621	7.2%	4,667	11.3%	4,889	12.2%	4,345	15.1%

Note: Categories with N < 40 are suppressed.