

VENTURA COLLEGE
Office of Research and Evaluation
Ventura College – Basic Skills Initiative

■ **FOREWORD**

The Basic Skills Initiative is an effort by California Community Colleges to improve the efficacy of their basic skills courses. Systemwide leadership for the initiative is being provided through the state Chancellor's Office which, with the assistance of The Center for Student Success (CSS) and the RP Group, produced a handbook to promulgate best practices and to standardize the collection of basic skills-related data. Information and data presented in this report are based on principles, practices and assessments as set forth in the Basic Skills Handbook: "Basic Skills as a Foundation for Student Success in California Community Colleges – March 2007."

This report is concerned with Part 2 of the handbook – "Assessment Tool for Effective Practices in Basic Skills", which starts on page 98. The report's focus is on obtaining/processing **fall 2006** basic skills data for use in preparing the "Data for Developmental Education" (page 102 of the Handbook).

■ **BASIC SKILLS COURSES**

A **basic skills course** is defined in the Basic Skills Handbook as being a course whose MIS Data Element **CB08** (Course-Basic-Skills-Status) is coded either:

"P" – Course is a designated pre-collegiate basic skills course

or

"B" – Course is a basic skills course, but is not a designated pre-collegiate basic skills course.

In VCCCD's Banner System, the data element name for CB08 is Attribute-Code or Attr-Code-Skills.

The "Data for Developmental Education" matrix lists **six** discipline-specific areas of developmental education. In the table below, the numbers of basic skills courses appearing in the **fall 2006** Ventura College catalog are distributed by discipline-specific areas. In the 'Specific to Ventura College' section of the table, **E A C** refers to the Educational Assistance Center, which offers the **ACT** (Assistive Computer Technology) and **LS** (Learning Skills) courses. There were a total of **54** basic skills courses listed in the 2006 – 2007 Ventura College Catalog.

| Fall 2006 – Numbers of Basic Skills Courses in the VC Catalog – By Discipline-Specific Areas | | | | | | | | |
|--|---------|---------|---------|-----|--------------|-----------------------------|-------|----|
| Listed on the "Data for Developmental Education" Matrix | | | | | | Specific to Ventura College | | |
| Math | English | Reading | Writing | ESL | Study Skills | BESL | E A C | |
| | | | | | | | ACT | LS |
| 2 | -0 | 6 | 3 | 14 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 17 |

The source of data for this report is the VCCCD Banner System. Data was extracted from Banner via the SDA utility. File names, extract dates, and SDA Banner Views are listed in the table below.

| File Names | Extract Dates | SDA Banner Views |
|-------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|
| Fall 2006 – VC Final Grades | February 5, 2007 | SV_STUDENT_ACADEMIC_HISTORY |
| Fall 2006 – VC Section FTES | August 26, 2007 | SV_TERM_SECTION_FTE |
| Fall 2006 – VC Course Catalog | August 27, 2007 | SV_COURSE_CATALOG |
| VC Assessment Scores | August 23, 2007 | SV_STUDENT_ASSESSMENT_TESTS |
| Spring 2007 – VC Final Grades | June 12, 2007 | SV_STUDENT_ACADEMIC_HISTORY |
| Fall 2007 – VC Final Grades | January 13, 2008 | SV_STUDENT_ACADEMIC_HISTORY |

■ **FALL 2006 – ENROLLMENTS IN BASIC SKILLS COURSES AT VC**

The table (on page 2) lists the basic skills courses that appear in the Fall 2006 VC Course Catalog. Data in the **Num. of Students** column indicate the numbers of students who received final grade notations in each of the listed courses. For the **BESL** enrollments, however, the numbers of students were obtained from the "Fall 2006 – VC Section FTES" file (Census Count). This is because BESL courses are **non-credit** and, therefore, **no** final grade notations are assigned.

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| Basic Skills Areas | Course ID | Course Title | Num. of Students | Course Basic Skills Status | | |
|-----------------------|---|---------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| | | | | Code | Meaning | |
| Mathematics | MATH V09 | Beginning Mathematics | 139 | P | Basic Skills, pre-collegiate | |
| | MATH V10 | Pre-Algebra | 262 | P | Basic Skills, pre-collegiate | |
| | Mathematics Total | | 401 | | | |
| Reading | ENGL V07 | Inter Reading (ESL V33) | 18 | P | Basic Skills, pre-collegiate | |
| | ESL V33 | Inter Reading (ENGL V07) | --- | P | Basic Skills, pre-collegiate | |
| | ENGL V08A | Low-Begin Read (ESL V34A) | 22 | P | Basic Skills, pre-collegiate | |
| | ESL V34A | Low-Begin Read (ENGL V08A) | 8 | P | Basic Skills, pre-collegiate | |
| | ENGL V08B | High-Begin Read (ESL V34B) | 4 | P | Basic Skills, pre-collegiate | |
| | ESL V34B | High-Begin Read (ENGL V08B) | 2 | P | Basic Skills, pre-collegiate | |
| Reading Total | | 54 | | | | |
| Writing | ENGL V03 | Basic English Composition | 219 | P | Basic Skills, pre-collegiate | |
| | ENGL V04A | Writing Skills: Level A | 13 | P | Basic Skills, pre-collegiate | |
| | ENGL V04B | Writing Skills: Level B | 25 | P | Basic Skills, pre-collegiate | |
| Writing Total | | 257 | | | | |
| ESL | ESL V01 | Low-Beginning ESL | 64 | P | Basic Skills, pre-collegiate | |
| | ESL V02 | High-Beginning ESL | 86 | P | Basic Skills, pre-collegiate | |
| | ESL V03 | Low-Intermediate ESL | 56 | P | Basic Skills, pre-collegiate | |
| | ESL V04 | High-Intermediate ESL | 44 | P | Basic Skills, pre-collegiate | |
| | ESL V05 | Low-Advanced ESL | 38 | P | Basic Skills, pre-collegiate | |
| | ESL V06 | High-Advanced ESL | 34 | P | Basic Skills, pre-collegiate | |
| | ESL V07 | Reading Skills LEP | --- | P | Basic Skills, pre-collegiate | |
| | ESL V08 | Writing Skills LEP | --- | P | Basic Skills, pre-collegiate | |
| | ESL V09 | EP: Language Skills for Office | --- | P | Basic Skills, pre-collegiate | |
| | ESL V12 | English Proficiency for Citizen | 45 | P | Basic Skills, pre-collegiate | |
| | ESL V14 | Beg ESL Listening and Speaking | --- | P | Basic Skills, pre-collegiate | |
| | ESL V15 | Int ESL Listening and Speaking | --- | P | Basic Skills, pre-collegiate | |
| | ESL V16 | Adv ESL Listening and Speaking | --- | P | Basic Skills, pre-collegiate | |
| ESL V40 | Vocab & Commun: Nonnative | --- | P | Basic Skills, pre-collegiate | | |
| ESL Total | | 367 | | | | |
| Study Skills | IDS V11 | Study Skills: College Courses | --- | P | Basic Skills, pre-collegiate | |
| | IDS V12 | Study Skills: Preparation | --- | P | Basic Skills, pre-collegiate | |
| | IDS V60B | EOPS Retention | 30 | P | Basic Skills, pre-collegiate | |
| | Study Skills Total | | 30 | | | |
| BESL | BESL N100A | Low-Beg Limited English | 108 | B | Basic Skills, not pre-coll | |
| | BESL N100B | High-Beg Limited English | 97 | B | Basic Skills, not pre-coll | |
| | BESL N100C | Low-Inter Limited English | 106 | B | Basic Skills, not pre-coll | |
| | BESL N100D | High-Inter Limited English | --- | B | Basic Skills, not pre-coll | |
| BESL Total | | 311 | | | | |
| EAC – ACT / LS | ACT V01 | ACT Evaluation | 19 | P | Basic Skills, pre-collegiate | |
| | ACT V02 | ACT Keyboarding Skills | 52 | P | Basic Skills, pre-collegiate | |
| | ACT V03 | ACT Access to Computers | 36 | P | Basic Skills, pre-collegiate | |
| | ACT V05 | ACT Internet Skills | 18 | P | Basic Skills, pre-collegiate | |
| | ACT V10 | ACT Writing Skills | 16 | P | Basic Skills, pre-collegiate | |
| | LS V01 | Assessment of Learning Skills | --- | B | Basic Skills, not pre-coll | |
| | LS V01L | Assessment/Learning Skills Lab | 112 | B | Basic Skills, not pre-coll | |
| | LS V02 | Reading Comp/Problem Solving | 28 | P | Basic Skills, pre-collegiate | |
| | LS V03A | Study Skills: Note taking | 9 | P | Basic Skills, pre-collegiate | |
| | LS V03B | Study Skills: Test Taking | 13 | P | Basic Skills, pre-collegiate | |
| | LS V03C | Study Skills: Research Paper | 12 | P | Basic Skills, pre-collegiate | |
| | LS V04 | Developing Phonetic Skills | --- | P | Basic Skills, pre-collegiate | |
| | LS V05 | Learn to Listen | --- | P | Basic Skills, pre-collegiate | |
| | LS V07 | LS: Fundamentals of Math | 88 | P | Basic Skills, pre-collegiate | |
| | LS V08 | Spelling Improvement | 20 | P | Basic Skills, pre-collegiate | |
| | LS V09 | Personal Development | --- | P | Basic Skills, pre-collegiate | |
| | LS V10 | Vocabulary Building | 24 | P | Basic Skills, pre-collegiate | |
| | LS V11 | Advanced Perception | --- | P | Basic Skills, pre-collegiate | |
| | LS V14 | Memory Power | 23 | P | Basic Skills, pre-collegiate | |
| | LS V19 | Learning Strategies & Tech | 17 | P | Basic Skills, pre-collegiate | |
| | LS V24 | Redeveloping Brain Potential | --- | B | Basic Skills, not pre-coll | |
| | LS V25 | Improve Grammar/Writing Skills | 44 | P | Basic Skills, pre-collegiate | |
| | EAC – ACT / LS Total | | 531 | | | |
| | FALL 2006 – TOTAL BASIC-SKILLS SEATCOUNT | | | 1,951 | | |

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■ **FALL 2006 – NEW STUDENTS ASSESSED INTO BASIC SKILLS COURSES**

The first Baseline Measure on the “Data for Developmental Education” matrix (see page 4) is “Percentage of **New Students** Assessed into Developmental Education Courses.” The numbers of **fall 2006** students by enrollment status (as indicated in the Fall 2006 – VC Final Grades file) are presented in the table below. Students who were enrolled solely in BESL courses are not reflected in the data below, since BESL courses are “non-credit” and do not generate final grade records.

The number of **first-time** students was **2,296** and there are **7,139** associated final grade records.

| Fall 2006 – Enrollment Status | | Students | | Final Grade Records | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|----------------|---------------------|----------------|
| Code | Description | Number | Percentage | Number | Percentage |
| 1 | First-Time Student | 2,296 | 18.37% | 7,139 | 22.36% |
| 2 | First-Time Transfer Student | 641 | 5.13% | 1,446 | 4.53% |
| 3 | Returning Student | 2,435 | 19.49% | 4,482 | 14.04% |
| 5 | Continuing Student | 6,116 | 48.94% | 17,427 | 54.59% |
| Y | Not Applicable, Currently K-12 | 1,009 | 8.07% | 1,430 | 4.48% |
| Totals | | 12,497 | 100.00% | 31,924 | 100.00% |

Placement testing for the **fall 2006** semester began **February 1, 2006** and ended **August 31, 2006**.

Mathematics, Reading and Writing were the developmental education areas in which the college provided formal (validated) Assessment Testing. Additionally, **ESL** courses might have been recommended by counselors when students’ combined DTLS test scores were in the 0 – 24 range (see Writing and ESL on page 4).

● **Mathematics**

The **MDTP** (Mathematics Diagnostic Testing Project), a series of **four** tests, is the assessment package used by Ventura College to recommend placements in **mathematics** courses. The Math Assessment Information Sheet, which lists the MDTP tests and recommended math courses based on test scores, is appended as **Attachment A**.

Of the 2,296 first-time students in fall 2006, **901** took the MDTP during the fall 2006 testing period. Placement recommendations for these students are summarized in the table below.

| Fall 2006 – New Students Taking a Math Assessment Test Between February 1, 2006 and August 31, 2006 | | | Score Ranges and Recommended Courses | | | |
|---|------------|----------------|---|------------|-----------|----------|
| Mathematics Assessment Test | Number | Percent | 30 – 50 | 20 – 29 | 10 – 19 | 0 – 9 |
| | | | (see below) | MATH V10 | MATH V09 | LS V07 |
| MDTP – Algebra Readiness | 259 | 28.75% | 86 | 110 | 59 | 4 |
| MDTP – Elementary Algebra | 386 | 42.84% | All recommended courses are above “basic skills” level. | | | |
| MDTP – Intermediate Algebra | 179 | 19.86% | All recommended courses are above “basic skills” level. | | | |
| MDTP – Pre-Calculus | 77 | 8.55% | All recommended courses are above “basic skills” level. | | | |
| Totals | 901 | 100.00% | | | | |

Course recommendations for score range of **30 – 50**: **MATH V01, MATH V11A** and **MATH V30**.

The **MATH “basic skills”** course recommendations are **169** (110 + 59).

Percentage of students who were assessed into a **MATH** developmental education course:

(169 divided by 901) times 100 equals **18.76%**

The **LS “basic skills”** course recommendations are **four (4)**.

Percentage of students who were assessed into the **LS V07** course:

(4 divided by 901) times 100 equals **0.44%**

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• **Reading**

The **DTLS-RC** (Reading Comprehension) of the **DTLS** (Descriptive Tests of Language Skills) was the assessment instrument used in **fall 2006** to recommend placements in **reading**. The English Assessment Information Sheet, which lists test scores and recommended reading courses, is appended as **Attachment B**. The Sequence of English Courses (2007 – 2008) is **Attachment C**.

Of the 2,296 first-time students in fall 2006, **1,050** took the combined DTLS during the testing period. Placement recommendations for these students are summarized in the table below.

| DTLS-RC Scores | Fall 2006 – New Students Who Took DTLS Between February 1, 2006 and August 31, 2006 | | |
|----------------|---|----------------|---|
| | Number | Percent | Recommended Course Placement |
| 22 – 45 | 821 | 78.19% | ENGL V05 (Recommended) |
| 16 – 21 | 171 | 16.28% | ENGL V03; ENGL V06A |
| 11 – 15 | 53 | 5.05% | ENGL V04A or ENGL V04B ▶ Also ENGL V07 / ESL V33 ? |
| 0 – 10 | 5 | 0.48% | ENGL V08A / ESL V34A ▶ Also ENGL V08B / ESL V34B ? |
| Totals | 1,050 | 100.00% | |

Number of students who were recommended to enroll in a developmental education course:

53 (Score range: 11 – 15) plus **5** (Score range: 0 – 10) equals **58**.

Percentage of students who were assessed into a developmental education course:

(58 divided by 1,050) times 100 equals 5.52%.

• **Writing and ESL**

The **DTLS** (Descriptive Tests of Language Skills) was the assessment vehicle used in **fall 2006** to recommend placements in **writing** (composition) or **ESL** courses. Placement recommendations were based on students' combined scores on the **DTLS-RC** (Reading Comprehension) and the **DTLS-CWE** (Conventions of Written English).

Of the 2,296 first-time students in fall 2006, **1,050** took the combined DTLS during the testing period. Placement recommendations for these students are summarized in the table below.

| Combined DTLS Scores | Fall 2006 – New Students Who Took DTLS Between February 1, 2006 and August 31, 2006 | | |
|----------------------|---|----------------|--|
| | Number | Percent | Recommended Course Placement |
| 51 – 85 | 631 | 60.10% | ENGL V01A (Writing) |
| 40 – 50 | 256 | 24.38% | ENGL V02 (Writing) |
| 25 – 39 | 143 | 13.62% | ENGL V03 (Writing) |
| 0 – 24 | 20 | 1.90% | See counselor – ESL, ENGL V04A/B, Learning Skills may be an option |
| Totals | 1,050 | 100.00% | |

Number of students who were recommended to enroll in a developmental education course:

143 (Score range: 25 – 39) plus **20** (Score range: 0 – 24) equals **163**.

Percentage of students who were assessed into a developmental education course:

(163 divided by 1,050) times 100 equals 15.52%.

Note that there is a difference between a student being “assessed into a developmental education course” and the student actually enrolling in such a course. Data in the following table indicate the numbers of **fall 2006** English or ESL enrollments by first-time students **who were assessed** into a developmental education course during the fall 2006 assessment period.

| DTLS Score | Total | ENGL 01A | ENGL 02 | ENGL 03 | ENGL 04A | ENGL 04B | ESL |
|---------------|------------|----------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 25 – 39 | 99 | 1 | 9 | 87 | 1 | -- | 1 |
| 0 – 24 | 12 | -- | -- | 3 | 2 | 6 | 1 |
| Totals | 111 | 1 | 9 | 90 | 3 | 6 | 2 |

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■ FALL 2006 – DATA FOR DEVELOPMENTAL EDUCATION

| FALL 2006 Baseline Measures for Developmental Education (DEV) | Levels of Measurement | | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | All Develop- mental Education | Optional, Discipline-Specific Developmental Education (DEV) Data | | | | | | |
| | | Math (DEV) | Reading (DEV) | Writing (DEV) | ESL (DEV) | Study Skills (DEV) | BESL* (DEV) | E A C ACT-LS (DEV) |
| Percentage of New Students Assessed into Developmental Education Courses | 394 ÷ 1,951 20.19% | 169 ÷ 901 18.76% | 58 ÷ 1,050 5.52% | 143 ÷ 1,050 13.62% | 20 ÷ 1,050 1.90% | --- | --- | ** 4 ÷ 901 0.44% |
| Number of Developmental Education Sections Offered | 101 | 13 | 8 | 12 | 27 | 2 | 8 | 31 |
| Percentage of Section Offerings that are Developmental Education | 101 ÷ 251 40.2% | 13 ÷ 91 14.3% | 8 ÷ 9 88.9% | 12 ÷ 83 14.5% | 27 ÷ 27 100.0% | 2 ÷ 2 100.0% | 8 ÷ 8 100.0% | 31 ÷ 31 100.0% |
| Unduplicated Number of Students Enrolled in DEV | 1,577 | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Duplicated Number in DEV | 1,951 | 401 | 54 | 257 | 367 | 30 | 310 | 531 |
| Student Success Rate in Developmental Education | 1,087 ÷ 1,624 66.9% | 213 ÷ 401 53.1% | 40 ÷ 54 74.1% | 149 ÷ 241** 61.8% | 288 ÷ 367 78.5% | 14 ÷ 30 46.7% | Courses are non-credit | 383 ÷ 531 72.1% |
| Student Retention Rate in Developmental Education | 1,355 ÷ 1,624 83.4% | 276 ÷ 401 68.8% | 48 ÷ 54 88.9% | 205 ÷ 241*** 85.1% | 320 ÷ 367 87.2% | 28 ÷ 30 93.3% | Courses are non-credit | 478 ÷ 531 90.0% |
| Student Course Repetition Rate in DEV (In Spring 2007) | 74 ÷ 537 13.4% | 29 ÷ 188 15.4% | 1 ÷ 14 7.1% | 19 ÷ 92 20.6% | 11 ÷ 79 13.9% | 1 ÷ 16 6.3% | Courses are non-credit | 13 ÷ 148 8.78% |
| Fall-to-Fall Persistence Rate of Developmental Education Students | 691 ÷ 1,577 43.8% | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Percentage of Development Ed Sections Taught by Full-Time Faculty (not overload) | 30 ÷ 74 40.5% | 3 ÷ 13 23.1% | 0 ÷ 8 0.0% | 6 ÷ 12 50.0% | 8 ÷ 27 29.6% | 2 ÷ 2 100.0% | 0 ÷ 8 0.0% | 16 ÷ 31 51.6% |
| Additional Recommended Measures (See page 104 of Basic Skills Manual) | | | | | | | | |
| Percentage of Development Students who Subsequently Enroll in Transfer Courses | | | | | | | | |
| Success Rate of Develop. Education Students in Transfer Courses | | | | | | | | |
| % of Students Successfully Completing a DEV Course & Earning a Degree / Cert. | | | | | | | | |
| % of Students Successfully Completing a DEV Course & Subsequently Transferring | | | | | | | | |
| Locally Determined Measures | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |

Notes: * (a) BESL courses are **non-credit**; (b) some students enroll in more than one BESL course; (c) enrollments of 310 are as of census (September 10, 2007).

** These four (4) students were assessed into LS V07 (Fundamentals of Math)

*** 16 students with RD grade notations were excluded

■ APPENDIX A – Math Assessment Information Sheet

Ventura College
Information Sheet
Assessment Testing
MATH ASSESSMENT

The intent of assessment testing is to help you determine the course(s) most appropriate for you, based on your skill level. All courses listed below except **LS V07, MATH V09 and MATH V10** have prerequisites. Test scores alone are not sufficient. **You must have satisfactorily completed the prerequisite course(s).**

| <u>TEST</u> | <u>SCORE</u> | <u>RECOMMENDED COURSES</u> |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|---|
| <u>Algebra Readiness/TEST I</u> | 30-50 | MATH V01, V11A, V30 |
| 50 questions | 20-29 | MATH V10 |
| 60 minutes | 10-19 | MATH V09 |
| | 0-9 | LS V07 |
| <u>Elementary/Algebra/TEST II</u> | 25-50 | MATH V02, V03 |
| 50 questions | 11-24 | MATH V01, V11A, V30 |
| 60 minutes | 0-10 | Take Test I |
| <u>Intermediate Algebra/TEST III</u> | 27-45 | MATH V04, V05, V38, V40, V44, V45, V55, V56, V57 |
| 45 questions | 18-26 | MATH V02, V03 |
| 60 minutes | 0-17 | Take Test II |
| <u>Pre-calculus/TEST IV</u> | 26-40 | MATH V21A |
| 40 questions | 18-25 | MATH V04, V05, V20, V38, V40, V44, V45, V46A, V55, V56, V57 |
| 60 minutes | 0-17 | Take Test III |

- Students who score at the lower end of any score range are encouraged to enroll in a course at the next lower level to improve chances for success.
- Students who have not taken a math course in the past two (2) years are also encouraged to enroll in a course at the next lower level.

Students with learning disabilities, or those experiencing learning difficulties, may contact the **Educational Assistance Center (EAC)**. The EAC staff can provide testing to identify learning disabilities and also offer courses that can help you become math competent. For example, the EAC offers a course called LSV07, Learning Skills: Fundamentals of Math, which helps students prepare for Math V09 or V10. Skill levels can also be determined by other assessment instruments. See your Counselor or the Assessment Specialist, Steve Manriquez for more information.

Updated: 05/11/2005

■ APPENDIX B – English Assessment Information Sheet



ENGLISH ASSESSMENT
**Ventura College Assessment Testing
Information Sheet**

ENGLISH ASSESSMENT:

The intent of assessment testing is to help you determine the course(s) most appropriate for you, based on your skill level.

Based on a combined score on the written English and reading comprehension tests, test results may be used to recommend the following English course(s).

TEST SCORE

51-85
40-50
25-39
0-24

RECOMMENDED COURSES

ENGL V01A (writing)
ENGL V02 (writing)
ENGL V03 (writing)

We strongly advise that you see a counselor. One or more of the following options maybe recommended:

- English V04A or V04B (writing)
- English as a Second Language
- Learning Skills

READING TEST SCORE

(Based on the reading comprehension test score alone)

22-45
16-21
11-15
0-10

RECOMMENDED COURSES

ENGL V05 (Recommended)
ENGL V03; ENGL V06A
ENGL V04A or V04B
ENGL V08A / ESL V34A

READING COMPREHENSION TEST SCORES

Study skills courses may be taken alone or in conjunction with any of the English courses.

Students with learning disabilities, or those experiencing learning difficulties, may contact the **Educational Assistance Center (EAC)**. The EAC staff can provide testing to identify learning disabilities and also offer appropriate courses and other services,

If English is your second language, you may contact the Office of Bilingual Services at (805) 654-6484, for information regarding language testing and ESL courses. See your Counselor or the Assessment Specialist, Steve Manriquez, for more information.

Revised: 05/30/06

■ APPENDIX C – Sequence of English Courses: 2007 – 2008

