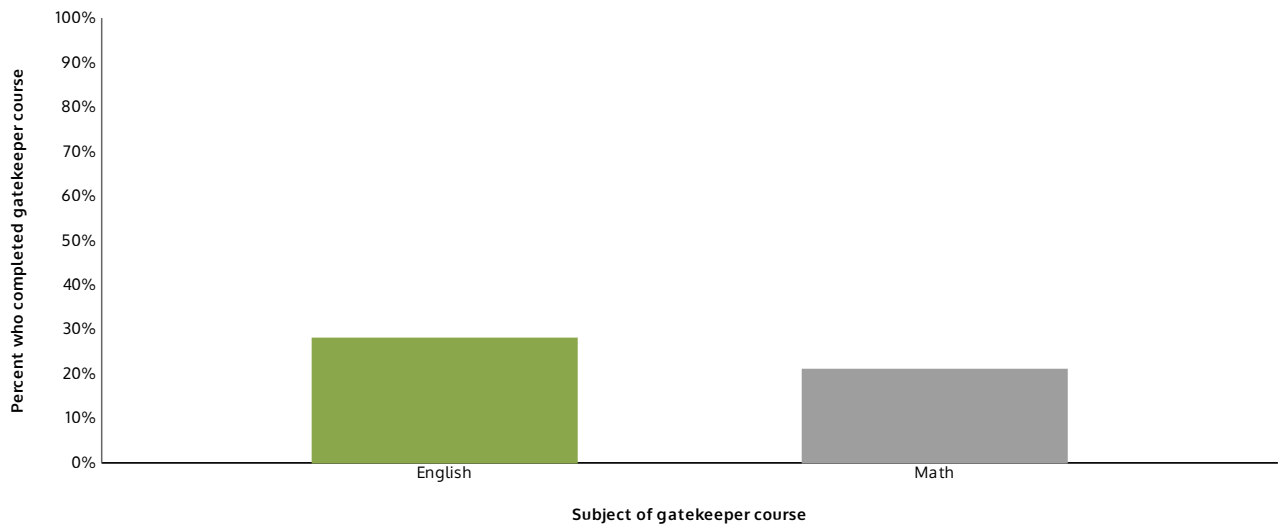


COLLEGE MILESTONES

COMPLETION OF GATEKEEPER ENGLISH AND MATH: CALIFORNIA

Percentage of California Community College students who completed a gatekeeper English and math course within seven years



What Is Measured?

Percentage of students completing gatekeeper English and math within seven years

Who Is Counted?

First-time degree-seeking students enrolled in California Community Colleges in 2000-01, excluding noncredit and dual-enrolled students

What It Tells Us

More than one-quarter (28 percent) of California Community College students completed a gatekeeper English course within seven years, while about one-fifth (21 percent) completed a gatekeeper math course within seven years.

Why It's Important

There is general consensus that timely completion of gatekeeper courses, the lowest-level college-level courses in the core subjects of mathematics, reading, and writing, positively affects student outcomes such as attainment of certificates and degrees and transfer to a four-year institution (Roksa & Calcagno, 2008, table 4; Horn & Lew, 2007; Offenstien, Moore, & Shulock, 2010, figure 8). Completion of gatekeeper courses fulfills requirements for graduation and transfer as well as prerequisites for more advanced courses in various fields.

ABOUT THE DATA

Degree-seeking students: include students enrolled in more than six units during the first year.

DATA SOURCE

Offenstien, J., Moore, C., & Shulock, N. (2010, April). *Advancing by degrees: A framework for increasing college completion*. Sacramento, CA and Washington, DC: IHELP and The Education Trust.