



LOS ANGELES HARBOR COLLEGE

Matriculation Research Report

Disproportionate Impact Study
English as a Native Language (ENL)
Assessment Instrument

Fall 2008

Prepared by:
Office of Research and Planning

INTRODUCTION

The English as a Native Language (ENL) assessment test is given to all matriculating students who indicate that English is their native language. Placement is based upon writing and reading scores that are combined with high school GPA as a multiple measure.

Students are advised into one of the five levels of English courses. The sequence of these courses is shown below with 5 being the lowest and 1 as the highest level of placement.

Table 1. English Course Sequence

Sequence	Course and Description
5	<i>Developmental Communications 20 and 35</i> Reading Fundamentals, Reading and Writing Skills, Non-Degree Applicable
4	<i>Developmental Communications 20</i> Reading and Writing Skills, Non-Degree Applicable
3	<i>English 21 or 73</i> English Fundamentals, Non-Degree Applicable
2	<i>English 28 or 31</i> Intermediate Composition and Critical Reading, Degree Applicable
1	<i>English 101</i> Freshman English, College Reading and Composition I, Transferable

Source: Los Angeles Harbor College Summer and Fall 2008 Schedule of Classes

This study is based upon the spring and fall 2008 testing cycles which ran from September 12, 2007 to September 13, 2008.

AGE

Table 2. English Placement by Age (Percent)
n=2,974

Sequence	Placement	Age Percent					Row Avg
		<20 (n=1,739)	20-24 (n=582)	25-34 (n=385)	35-44 (n=167)	> 45 (n=101)	
5	DC 20 and 35	2.5%	3.6%	2.6%	3.6%	3.0%	2.8%
4	DC 20	8.7%	10.3%	7.8%	12.0%	15.8%	9.3%
3	Eng 21/73	11.3%	10.8%	11.9%	14.4%	7.9%	11.3%
2	Eng 28/31	57.0%	52.4%	57.7%	52.7%	56.4%	55.9%
1	English 101	20.5%	22.9%	20.0%	17.4%	16.8%	20.6%
		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: SIS Stud_APMS and Student tables, 9/15/08.

English 101 Level of Placement:

- Using the 80% guideline, the row average placement for all groups in English 101 16.5% (20.6% X 80%). This is the standard for comparison.
- Any group in that level that averages below 16.5% could be considered an indication of disproportional impact.
- Table 1 shows no disproportional impact for any age group at the English 101 level.

English 28/31 Level of English Placement:

- Using the 80% guideline, the row average placement for all groups in English 28/31 is 44.7% (55.9% X 80%). This is the standard for comparison.
- Any group in that level that averages below 44.7% could be considered an indication of disproportional impact.
- There is no indication of disproportionate impact for any age group in the English 28/31 level of placement based on Table 2.

GENDER

Table 3. English Placement by Gender (Percent)
n=2,974

Sequence	Placement	Gender Percent		Row Avg
		Male (n=1,318)	Female (n=1,656)	
5	DC 20 and 35	3.7%	2.1%	2.8%
4	DC 20	10.5%	8.4%	9.3%
3	Eng 21/73	10.3%	12.1%	11.3%
2	Eng 28/31	55.5%	56.3%	55.9%
1	English 101	20.0%	21.1%	20.6%
		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: SIS Stud_APMS and Student tables, 9/15/08.

English 101 Level of Placement:

- Using the 80% guideline, the average for the Male group in English 101 is 16.0% (20.0% X 80%). This is the standard for comparison.
- Table 3 shows no disproportional impact for the Female group (21.1%) at this level of placement.

English 28/31 Level of English Placement:

- Using the 80% guideline, the average for the Male group in English 28/31 is 44.4% (55.5% X 80%). This is the standard for comparison.
- There is no indication of gender disproportionate impact in the English 28/31 level of placement based on Table 3.

ETHNICITY

A total of 2,974 students were assessed in the spring and fall 2008 testing cycles. However, only 2,765 were included in the ethnicity study because *Unknowns* and *Declined to State* groups were excluded.

Table 4. English Placement by Ethnicity (Percent)
n=2,765

Sequence	Placement	Ethnicity Percent				Row Avg
		Afr Amer (n=475)	Asian (n=491)	Hispanic (n=1,398)	White (n=401)	
5	DC 20 and 35	4.4%	2.4%	3.1%	0.2%	2.8%
4	DC 20	13.3%	9.6%	9.9%	4.0%	9.5%
3	Eng 21/73	16.2%	10.6%	11.9%	4.7%	11.4%
2	Eng 28/31	52.4%	55.0%	59.4%	50.6%	56.1%
1	English 101	13.7%	22.4%	15.7%	40.4%	20.1%
		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: SIS Stud_APMS and Student tables, 9/15/08.

English 101 Level of Placement:

- Using the 80% guideline, the average placement for the White, Non-Hispanic group in the English 101 level is 32.3% (40.4% X 80%). This is the standard for comparison.
- Any group having a placement percentage below 32.3% could be considered an indication of disproportionate impact.
- Groups falling below this 32.3% mark are highlighted in Table 4.

English 28/31 Level of English Placement:

- Using the 80% guideline, the average placement for the White, Non-Hispanic in the English 28/31 level is 40.5% (50.6% X 80%). This is the standard for comparison.
- There is no indication of disproportionate impact in this level of placement based on the figures on Table 4.

RECOMMENDATIONS

English 28/31

Overall results in English 28/31 show no disproportionate impact in age, gender, and ethnicity.

English 101

The results for English 101 indicate no disproportionate impact in age and gender. However, there is an indicator of disproportionate impact based upon ethnicity. The following are recommendations in order to address the issue:

- Review the publisher's information regarding cultural bias.
- Division chair and matriculation coordinator ensure that faculty and feeder high schools are well informed of our course requirements.
- Repeat this study with Spring 2009 data.
- English faculty must make a policy statement regarding this impact and consider ways to decrease the disparity.
- In reviewing and modifying the cut scores, both the English faculty and the assessment office need address the issue with a plan. If it is decided to raise the cut scores, it is likely that this change will further increase the disparity between White students and other ethnicity students.
- One alternative that was considered was to lower the cut score for English 101 by 5 points. As shown in the table below, this did not eliminate the disproportionate impact.

*Table 5. English 101 Placement by Ethnicity (Percent)
With Cut Score Lowered by 5 Points*

Sequence	Placement	Ethnicity Percent				Row Avg
		Afr Amer	Asian	Hispanic	White	
1	English 101	21.9%	31.0%	23.3%	51.6%	28.5%

Using the 80% guideline, the average placement for the White, Non-Hispanic in the English 101 level is 41.3% (51.6% X 80%). This is the standard for comparison.