MT. San Jacinto College

Office of Institutional Research

English-101 Placement Scores & Course Performance

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English-101 placement level and performance analysis

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<u>Summary and Findings Brief</u>

Purpose -

The purpose of this study is do determine what impact MSJC English placement level testing has on students English-101 performance. To determine if placement level scores are placing students at the appropriate course level and what is the impact student success. Additionally this study will gage what the impact of removing placement levels below 101 will be on English-101 success rates.

Methodology –

MSJC student's English placement level testing scores and English course performance records in ENGL-062 through ENGL-101 (face to face only) were extracted from the MSJC database for a ten year period, from AY05-06 to AY14-15. The records for 23,685 individual students were included for a total of 34,633 English course enrollments. Only enrollments with earned grades at MSJC are included, neither withdraws nor transfer credit are included in GPA or Success Rate analysis. Student's placement level and placement scores were plotted against English course grades, GPA, and success rates.
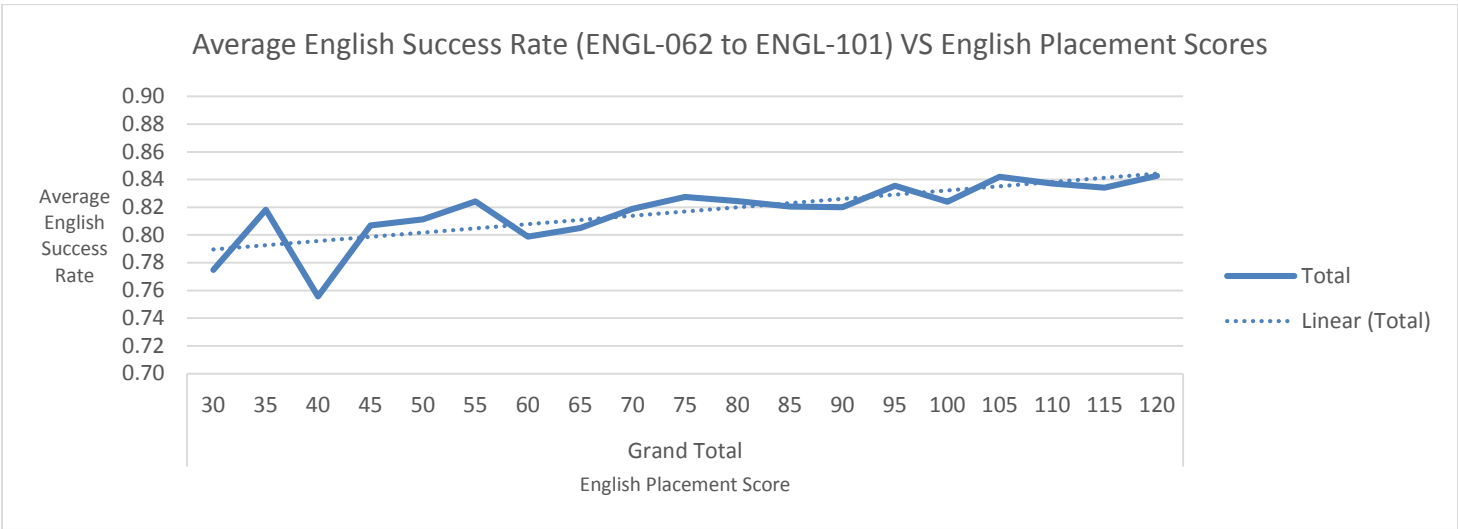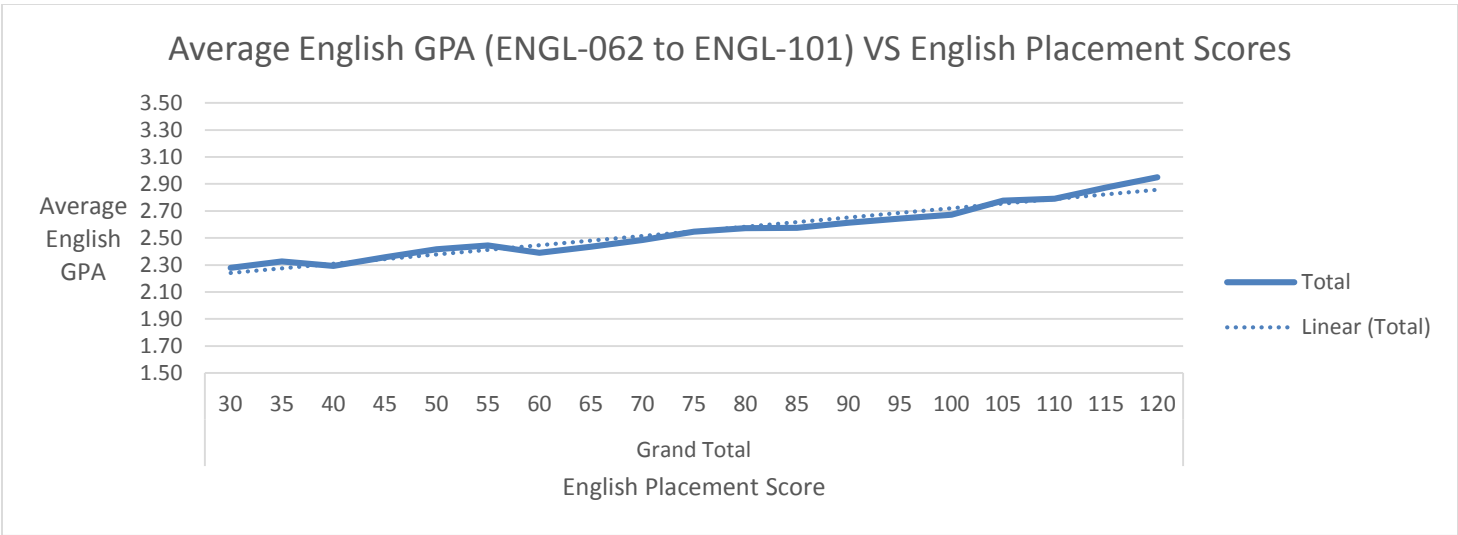
Summary Results –

Students with cut scores above English-62 level would average a passing grade if allowed to enroll directly into English-101. Students placed into English-062 or lower would average slightly under a passing grade if allowed to enroll directly into English-101. One level of remediation may be advisable.

Findings –

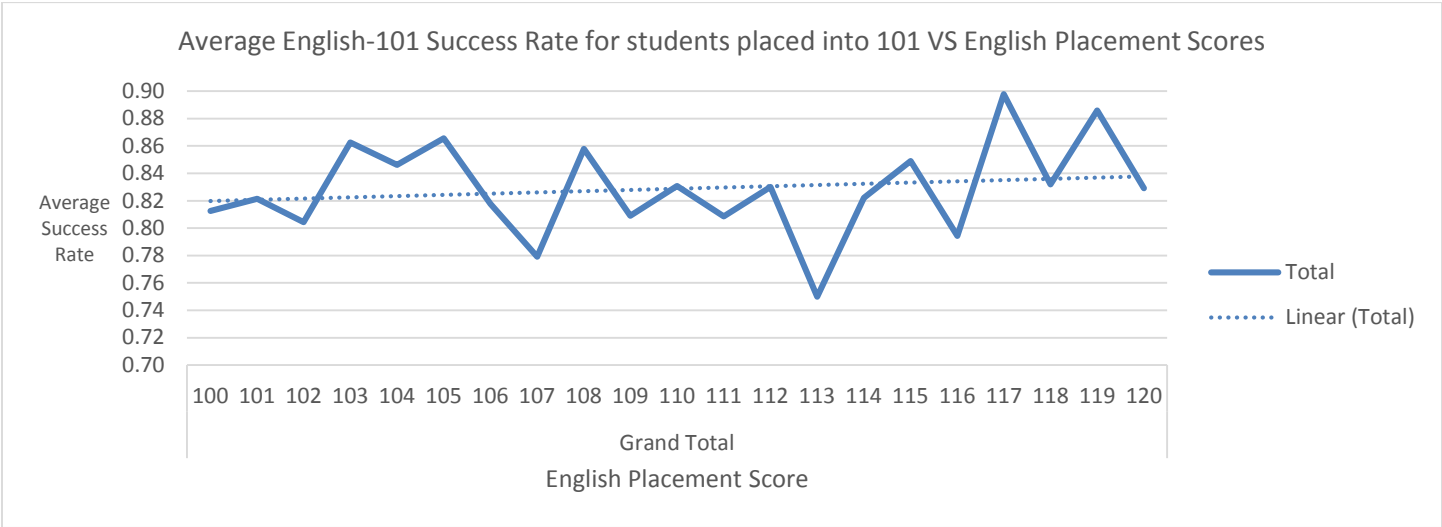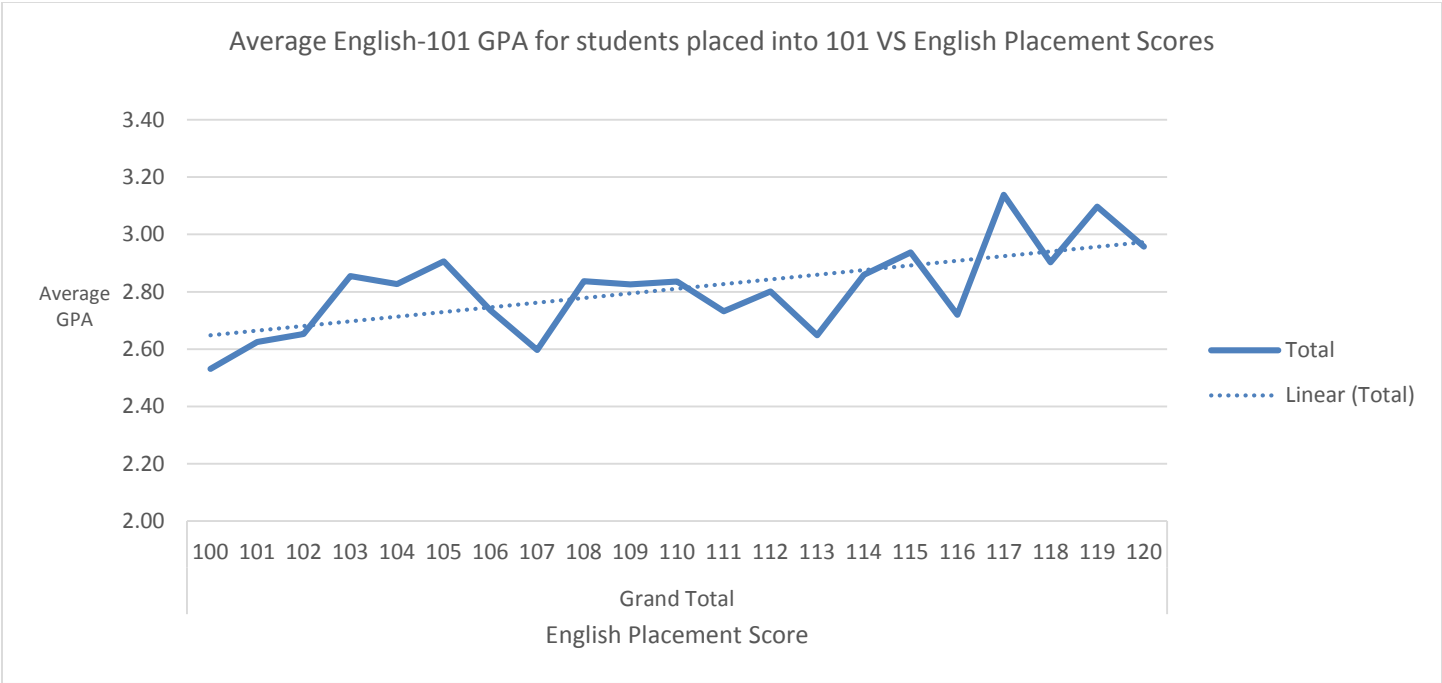<u>Overall relationship between students English placement Scores and students English course performance.</u>

Overall there is strong positive correlation (.87) between English placement scores and English GPA. This tells us that in the aggregate, students with higher English placement scores are likely to have a higher English GPA. Average English GPA ranges from 2.28 to 2.95 from the low end placement scores to the high end placement scores with an overall average of 2.59. Because the average GPA is above a 2.0 for all placement levels, we see only a moderate positive correlation (.47) between English success rates and English placement scores. This tells us that in the aggregate, students with higher English placement scores are more likely to receive a passing grade in their English course enrollments. The average English success rates range from 77% to 84% from the low end placement scores to the high end placement scores with an average of 82% overall.

Average English GPA (ENGL-062 to ENGL-101) VS English Placement Scores

Average English Success Rate (ENGL-062 to ENGL-101) VS English Placement Scores

<u>English-101 performance in relation to placement scores and progress from lower levels.</u>

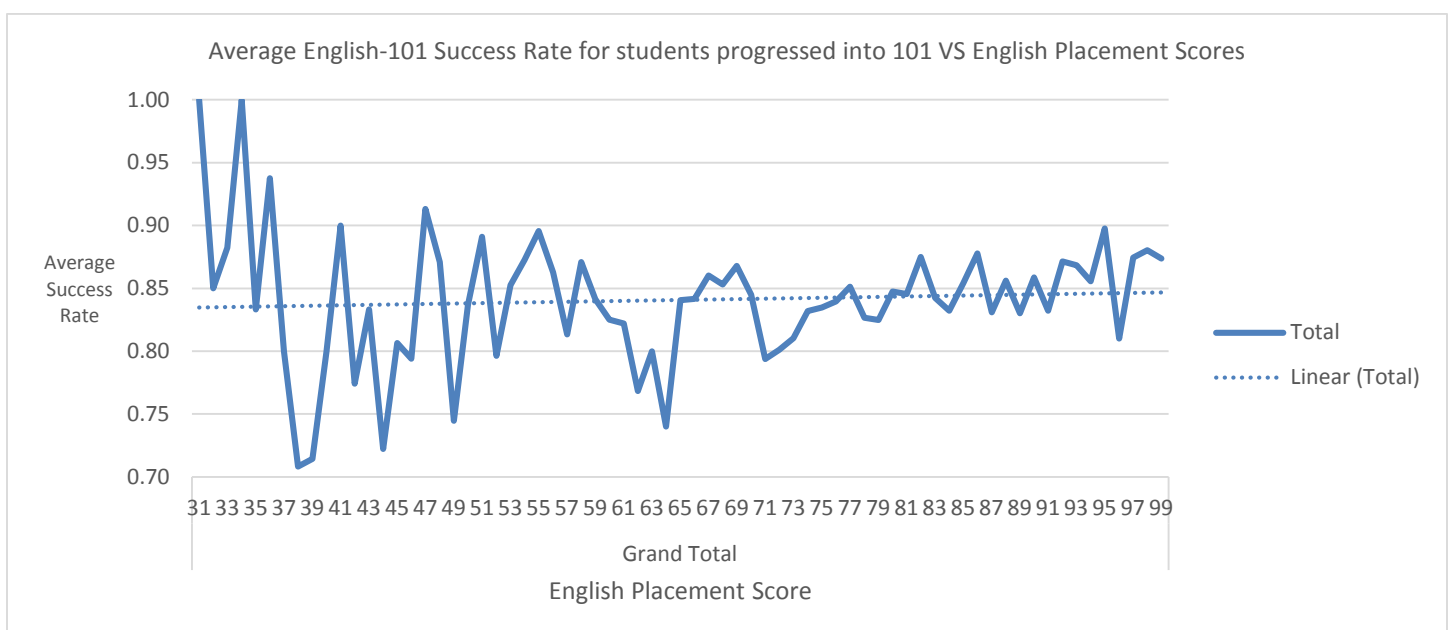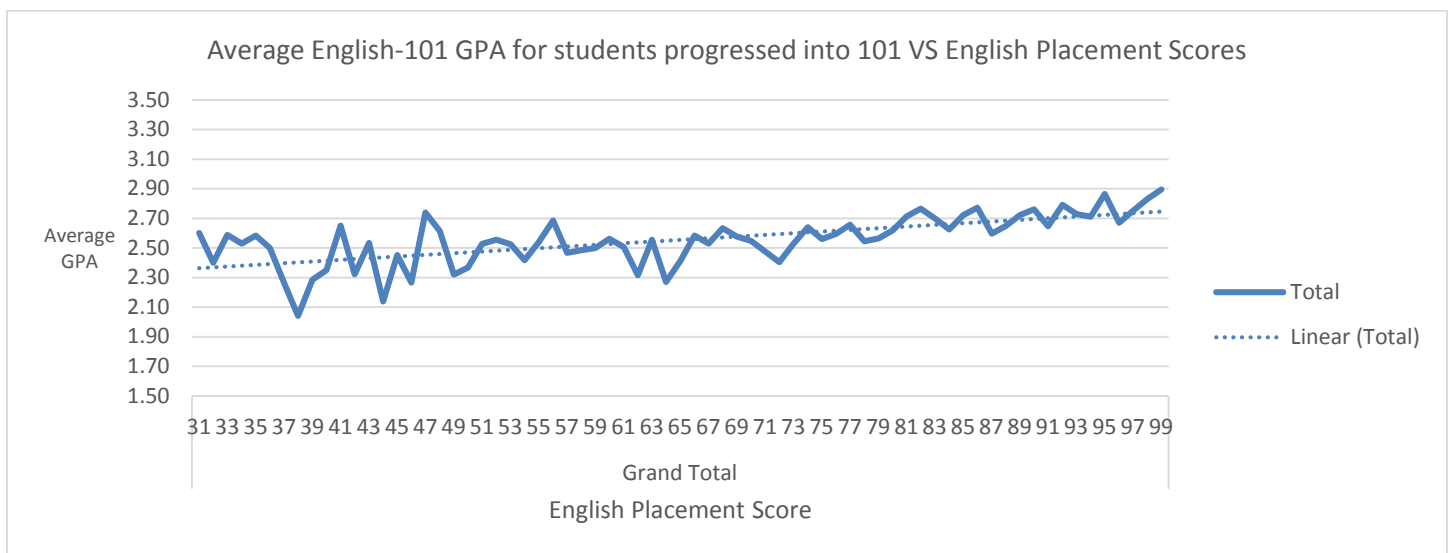<u>Placed into 101 with cut score between 100 and 120</u>

Students that placed into English-101 with placement scores between 100 and 120 have a moderate positive correlation (.65) between English-101 placement score and course grade. Average course GPA ranged from 2.53 to 2.96 from low end placement to high end placement scores with an overall average of 2.8. Again because the average course GPA is above passing grade for all placement levels, the impact on success rate is less pronounced. There is a weak positive correlation (.16) between English-101 placement scores and course grade. Average success rates ranged from 81% to 85% from low end placement scores to high end placement scores with an average of 82%. This tells us that students with higher placements scores for English-101 are more likely to earn a higher grade and slightly more likely to pass English-101 than students with low placement scores for English-101.

Average English-101 GPA for students placed into 101 VS English Placement Scores

Average English-101 Success Rate for students placed into 101 VS English Placement Scores

The slope of the GPA regression line is .016219. Extrapolating this regression line suggests that if students with cut scores below 68 were allowed to enroll directly into English-101 they would have an average GPA below 2.0. The slope of the Success Rate regression line is .0009. Extrapolating this regression line suggests that students with a cut score of 31 would have a success rate that is 7.2% points below the current English-101 average of 82%. Also note that this does not account for withdraw rate. Withdraw rate would likely remain constant or climb slightly near 15%.

Progressed into 101 from lower level with cut score between 31 and 99

Student that progress into English-101 after placing into lower level English courses have a positive correlation (.67) between English-101 course grade and English placement scores. Average course GPA for these students ranged from 2.44 to 2.86 from low end placement scores to high end placement scores with an overall average of 2.63. Again, because the average GPA is above passing for all placement levels, the correlation between placement scores and success rate is minimized. For students who progress to English-101 after passing a lower level English course there is no correlation (0.07) between placement score and English-101 success rate. Success rates averaged 84% for this group with little to no deviation from this average by placement scores. This tells us that the students who progress to English-101 with higher placements scores a slightly more likely to earn a higher grade (A or B) but are no more likely to earn a passing grade than students with lower placement scores who also progressed into English-101. This data also tells us that students who progress to English-101 from lower level courses are slightly more likely to pass English-101 than directly placed students but they will likely have a slightly lower average course GPA than students who place directly into English-101. This is likely partially due to the filtering out of unsuccessful students in lower level courses not reaching English-101.

Average English-101 GPA for students progressed into 101 VS English Placement Scores

Average English-101 Success Rate for students progressed into 101 VS English Placement Scores

<u>English-101 Cut Score Summary</u>

The performance and placement data for English suggests that students with placement scores above 67 (placed into English-092 or higher) would likely have an average GPA above 2.0 if allowed to enroll directly into English-101 without taking any remedial English course work. Students with placement scores below 68 (placed into English-062 or lower) would likely have an average GPA below 2.0 if allowed to enroll directly into English-101 without remediation. This would suggest that MSJC may need one level of remedial English for students with scores below 68.

Enrollments	Correlation	Students GPA Ranges	Student's Average Course GPA
English placement scores (AND) English GPA	0.87	2.28 to 2.95	2.59 (All ENG GPA)
English-101 placement score (AND) Course Grade	0.65	2.53 to 2.96	2.8 (ENG. 101 GPA)

Enrollments	Correlation	English Success Rate Range	Average English Success Rates
English Placement Score (AND) Success Rate	0.47	77% to 84%	82%
English-101 Placement Score (AND) ENG. 101 Course Grade	0.16	81% to 85%	82%

Data Source: All data extracted from MSJC internal database of student placement scores, academic enrollments and grades.