Rancho Santiago Community College District

RESEARCH DEPARTMENT REPORT

Math Placement Levels of Orange Unified School District Students Who Matriculate to RSCCD
Compiled by RSCCD Research Department, September 2006

Background

Noticing a high proportion of new freshmen at Santiago Canyon College (SCC) enrolling in lower levels of math coursework, administrators at SCC asked for an analysis of math course advisements based on the RSCCD math placement test (MDPT). Orange Unified researchers shared math course data of seniors enrolled at their high schools (2003-04, 2004-05, and 2005-06), and those data were compared to corresponding math course advisements here at RSCCD.

Student record matches were found for 523 of the Orange Unified seniors for the three years of study. Of those, 238 were administered the District's math placement test; 118 were advised to enroll in specific math coursework at our colleges. Data for those students were used in these analyses.

Summary of Findings

➢ Overall, just over half (53%) of math-test-takers from Orange Unified who successfully completed Algebra 2 (or higher) were placed at Math 140 (College Algebra), or above, at RSCCD.

- Fewer (44%) were advised by counselors at orientation (based upon multiple measures used in conjunction with scores) into Math 140 or above.

➢ Not surprisingly, a higher proportion of high school Algebra 2-completers who **were not** advised to enroll in college algebra earned lower grades (D) in high school math than did those who were referred to college algebra (27% vs. 11%, respectively)

Comparisons are included by high school of graduation.

Tested/Advised Math Course Levels of Orange Unified School District Graduates (2004, 2005, and 2006)				
High School of Graduation	**Successfully Completed HS Algebra 2 (or higher)**		**Recommended Math Placement at RSCCD College Algebra level, or higher**	
	Tested at RSCCD for Math	**Advised into Math Coursework**	**% by test**	**% by Counselor**
Canyon	37	29	59%	46%
El Modena	77	34	62%	43%
Orange	89	34	44%	47%
Richland	3	0	-	-
Villa Park	32	21	48%	38%
Total	238	118	53%	44%

*only OUSD graduates for whom a record match (n=523) could be found in RSCCD student data files (using birth date and name) were included in these analyses.

Grades of Orange Unified School District Graduates Who Successfully Completed HS Algebra 2 (or Higher) (2004-2006 Seniors) Who Tested in Math at RSCCD					
Grade in HS Algebra 2, or higher	**High School**				
	Canyon	**El Modena**	**Orange**	**Villa Park**	**Total**
	n=29	**n=34**	**n=34**	**n=21**	**n=118**
A					
placed into Math 140+	41%	5%	20%	50%	25%
placed below Math 140	17%	0%	0%	36%	11%
B					
placed into Math 140+	24%	43%	13%	20%	27%
placed below Math 140	25%	23%	16%	36%	24%
C					
placed into Math 140+	24%	33%	60%	30%	37%
placed below Math 140	42%	39%	53%	9%	38%
D					
placed into Math 140+	12%	19%	7%	0%	11%
placed below Math 140	17%	39%	32%	18%	27%
Mean Grade					
placed into Math 140+ (n=63)	2.94	2.33	2.47	3.20	2.67
placed below Math 140 (n=55)	2.42	1.85	1.84	2.91	2.18