



Rancho Santiago Community College District
Validation of Placement Tools for Math Coursework, Fall 2011
Compiled by the RSCCD Research Department

Background

The Math Diagnostic Testing Project (MDTP) is fully approved by the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office (CCCCO) for use in placing students into Math courses at RSCCD colleges. And, although the CCCCCO is neither requiring or accepting ongoing validation documentation at this time (due to budget constraints), it is good practice to analyze data on an ongoing basis to support our colleges' continued use of these placement tools, as well as to support our accreditation efforts.

Students advised into math courses in Fall 2011 using the MDTP and multiple measures were asked (at the fourth week of the semester) if they believed they were placed into an appropriate math course level; their instructors were also asked to assess the appropriateness of their students' course level advisements.

Summary of Findings

Student Ratings:

- The vast majority of students consider the math course levels at which they were placed to be appropriate: 99% (SAC) and 98% (SCC) of students consider the work in their course to be "the right level" or "too easy."
- By course, "correct placements" meet, or surpass, the 75% threshold of validity.

Instructor Ratings:

- Overall, 77% of SAC math instructors who responded to the survey rated their students' course level advisements to be appropriate; 60% of SCC math instructors made that assessment.
- SAC respondents assessed advisements into Math 080, 081, 105, 140, and 160 below the 75% threshold; SCC respondents assessed N06, 060, 140, 150, 160, and 170 below the threshold. The majority of the low satisfactory distributions is due to low response rates, especially for SCC, and would likely reflect more favorably with greater participation.

Validation of Placement Tools: Math Diagnostic Testing Project (MDTP) with Multiple Measures					
Student Self-Ratings of Appropriateness of Placement, Fall 2011					
college	math course	Student Rating of Placement			
		too difficult	right level	too easy	TOTAL
SAC	N06		92%	8%	26
	N48		86%	14%	56
	060		82%	18%	73
	081	3%	77%	20%	60
	105		86%	14%	22
	140	7%	71%	21%	14
	150		91%	9%	11
	160	6%	89%	6%	18
	170		100%		3
	TOTAL	1%	83%	15%	283

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Student Self-Ratings of Appropriateness of Placement, Fall 2011					
college	college	Student Rating of Placement			
		too difficult	right level	too easy	TOTAL
SCC	N06	10%	40%	50%	10
	N48		72%	28%	46
	060	2%	68%	30%	97
	081		83%	17%	36
	105		100%		7
	140		93%	7%	14
	150	11%	89%		9
	160	7%	93%		14
	170		100%		4
	TOTAL	2%	75%	23%	237

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Instructor Ratings of Appropriateness of Placement, Fall 2011								
College	Math Course	Instructor Rating of Placement				Below Minimum Skills Needed to Succeed		Total
		Meets or Exceeds Minimum Skills Needed to Succeed				success with effort	should be lower	
		could be higher	very well placed	properly placed	TOTAL			
SAC	N06	9%	23%	43%	75%	19%	6%	53
	N48	9%	61%	17%	87%	9%	4%	69
	060	15%	28%	39%	82%	14%	5%	103
	080		50%		50%	50%		4
	081	2%	27%	38%	66%	23%	11%	64
	105		30%	40%	70%	13%	17%	30
	140	11%	17%	44%	72%	17%	11%	18
	150		17%	78%	94%	6%		18
	160		35%	24%	59%	41%		17
	170		33%	33%	67%	33%		3
TOTAL	8%	33%	36%	77%	17%	7%	379	
SCC	N06	11%	19%	33%	63%	19%	19%	27
	N48	16%	30%	37%	83%	11%	6%	63
	060	1%	21%	40%	62%	23%	15%	110
	081	2%	47%	35%	84%	9%	7%	43
	105	14%		86%	100%			7
	140		50%	21%	71%	21%	7%	14
	150		44%	11%	56%	33%	11%	9
	160		13%	7%	20%	40%	40%	15
	170		25%	25%	50%	50%		4
	219			80%	80%		20%	5
TOTAL	5%	27%	36%	69%	19%	13%	297	