

RESEARCH BRIEF

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Grade Distribution by English Placement Test Score and Enrollment in Developmental English and English as a Second Language: Fall 2014

This Research Brief presents the grade distribution for several college-level courses offered in Fall 2014 based on students' scores on the Virginia Placement Test (VPT) in English. Students who scored a three were placed into English Fundamentals (ENF) 3, Preparing for College English III, a developmental course with a co-requisite college-level English course. Students who scored a four were placed directly into English 111, the introductory college-level English course; placement test scores are valid for two years

Students are considered to be successful in a course if they earned a grade of 'A,' 'B,' or 'C.' In addition, 'D' is a passing grade; 'F' signifies failure of a course. A grade of 'I' represents an incomplete, used when a student is unable to complete a course within the normal time frame. A 'W' is given if a student withdraws from a course after the add/drop period but prior to completion of 60 percent of the course session. Student success will be examined in two college-level English courses as well as several general education electives.

Fall 2014 grades in English 111 and English 112 (College Composition I and II, respectively) are also presented for students who previously enrolled in a developmental English (ENF 1 or ENF 2, Preparing for College English I and II, respectively) or English as a Second Language (ESL) course. Prior course enrollment is considered for the last six semesters, from Fall 2012 through Summer 2014, and includes online courses taken through the Extended Learning Institute.

Table 1 (see next page) shows the Fall 2014 grade distribution for English 111 based on English placement test score. Seventy-three percent of students who scored a four on the VPT-English (4,803 students) earned a grade of 'C' or better, compared to 65 percent of students who scored a three (776 students). A higher percentage of students who scored a three on the VPT-English failed English 111 in Fall 2014 (21 percent, 252 students) compared to those who scored a four (15 percent, 971 students).

Table 1. English 111 Grade Distribution by English Placement Test Score: Fall 2014

ENG 111 Grade	Virginia Placement Test in English			
	Score 3		Score 4	
	#	%	#	%
A	180	15.0	1,709	26.1
B	304	25.3	1,998	30.5
C	292	24.3	1,096	16.7
D	109	9.1	399	6.1
F	252	20.9	971	14.8
I	1	0.1	3	<0.1
W	65	5.4	383	5.8
Total	1,203	100.0	6,559	100.0

Note: There were 24 missing grades.
Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100%.

Table 2 presents Fall 2014 English 111 grades for students who were enrolled in ENF 1, ENF 2, or any ESL course in the previous six semesters. Eighty-seven percent of students who previously enrolled in an ESL course (502 students) received an 'A,' 'B,' or 'C' in English 111 in Fall 2014, compared to 66 percent of students in ENF 1 (40 students), and 64 percent of students in ENF 2 (114 students). Twenty percent of students in ENF 2 (35 students) earned an 'F' in English 111 compared to 12 percent in ENF 1 (7 students), and 5 percent in ESL (29 students).

Table 2. English 111 Grade Distribution for Students Previously Enrolled in ENF 1, ENF 2, or ESL: Fall 2014

ENG 111 Grade	Course					
	ENF 1		ENF 2		ESL	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
A	6	9.8	32	17.9	220	38.3
B	21	34.4	52	29.1	203	35.3
C	13	21.3	30	16.8	79	13.7
D	9	14.8	15	8.4	25	4.3
F	7	11.5	35	19.6	29	5.0
I	0	0.0	1	0.6	1	0.2
W	5	8.2	14	7.8	18	3.1
Total	61	100.0	179	100.0	575	100.0

Note: There were two missing grades.
Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100%.

As shown in Table 3 (see next page), 73 percent of students who scored a four on the VPT-English (797 students) received an 'A,' 'B,' or 'C' in English 112 in Fall 2014, compared to sixty-seven percent of students who scored a three (172 students). Twenty-three percent of students who scored a three (60 students) earned a 'D' or an 'F' in English 112 in Fall 2014, compared to 18 percent (195 students) of students who scored a four.

Table 3. English 112 Grade Distribution by English Placement Test Score: Fall 2014

ENG 112 Grade	Virginia Placement Test in English			
	Score 3		Score 4	
	#	%	#	%
A	53	20.7	338	30.9
B	73	28.5	279	25.5
C	46	18.0	180	16.5
D	19	7.4	62	5.7
F	41	16.0	133	12.2
I	0	0.0	1	0.1
W	24	9.4	101	9.2
Total	256	100.0	1,094	100.0

Note: There were two missing grades.
Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100%.

Table 4 presents the Fall 2014 grades for English 112 for students enrolled in ENF 1, ENF 2, or an ESL course within the previous six semesters. Eighty-seven percent of students previously enrolled in ESL (312 students) earned a grade of 'C' or better in English 112 in Fall 2014, compared to 75 percent of those in ENF 2 (120 students), and 54 percent of those in ENF 1 (20 students). Twenty-four percent of students previously enrolled in ENF 1 (9 students) failed English 112 in Fall 2014, compared to 7 percent of students in ENF 2 (11 students), and 4 percent of students in ESL (15 students).

Table 4. English 112 Grade Distribution for Students Previously Enrolled in ENF 1, ENF 2, or ESL: Fall 2014

ENG 112 Grade	Course					
	ENF 1		ENF 2		ESL	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
A	5	13.5	26	16.3	126	35.0
B	6	16.2	59	36.9	124	34.4
C	9	24.3	35	21.9	62	17.2
D	6	16.2	12	7.5	10	2.8
F	9	24.3	11	6.9	15	4.2
I	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
W	2	5.4	17	10.6	23	6.4
Total	37	100.0	160	100.0	360	100.0

Note: There was one missing grade.
Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100%.

Table 5 (see next page) presents the Fall 2014 grade distribution for Biology 101 based on students' scores on the VPT-English. Sixty-eight percent of students who earned a four on the VPT-English (981 students) received an 'A,' 'B,' or 'C' in Biology 101 in Fall 2014, compared to 63 percent of students who earned a three (143 students). Students who scored a three were more likely to earn a 'D' or 'F' (29 percent, 66 students) than those who scored a four (26 percent, 371 students).

Table 5. Biology 101 Grade Distribution by English Placement Test Score: Fall 2014

BIO 101 Grade	Virginia Placement Test in English			
	Score 3		Score 4	
	#	%	#	%
A	29	12.7	298	20.7
B	54	23.7	371	25.7
C	60	26.3	312	21.6
D	34	14.9	181	12.6
F	32	14.0	190	13.2
I	0	0.0	0	0.0
W	19	8.3	90	6.2
Total	228	100.0	1,442	100.0

Note: There was one missing grade.
Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100%.

As shown in Table 6, 67 percent of students who scored a four on the English placement test (1,326 students) received an 'A,' 'B,' or 'C' in History 101 in Fall 2014, compared to 64 percent of students who scored a three (203 students). Students were more likely to earn a 'D' or 'F' in History 101 if they scored a three on the VPT-English (28 percent, 89 students) than if they scored a four (26 percent, 506 students).

Table 6. History 101 Grade Distribution by English Placement Test Score: Fall 2014

HIS 101 Grade	Virginia Placement Test in English			
	Score 3		Score 4	
	#	%	#	%
A	52	16.4	507	25.8
B	85	26.7	510	25.9
C	66	20.8	309	15.7
D	32	10.1	175	8.9
F	57	17.9	331	16.8
I	1	0.3	1	0.1
W	25	7.9	133	6.8
Total	318	100.0	1,966	100.0

Note: There was one missing grade.
Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100%.

Table 7 (see next page) shows Fall 2014 History 121 grades based on students' scores on the English placement test. Seventy-five percent of students who received a four on the placement test (655 students) earned a 'C' or better in History 121 in Fall 2014, compared to 67 percent of students who received a three on the placement test (129 students). Students who earned a three on the placement test were more likely to earn a 'D' or an 'F' in the course (27 percent, 52 students) compared to those who earned a four (21 percent, 183 students).

Table 7. History 121 Grade Distribution by Score on English Placement Test: Fall 2014

HIS 121 Grade	Virginia Placement Test in English			
	Score 3		Score 4	
	#	%	#	%
A	23	11.9	207	23.6
B	51	26.4	264	30.1
C	55	28.5	184	21.0
D	23	11.9	64	7.3
F	29	15.0	119	13.6
I	0	0.0	1	0.1
W	12	6.2	38	4.3
Total	193	100.0	877	100.0

Note: There were four missing grades.
Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100%.

Table 8 presents Fall 2014 grades in Psychology 201. Seventy-four percent of students who earned a four on the VPT-English (1,047 students) earned an 'A,' 'B,' or 'C' in Psychology 201 in Fall 2014, compared to sixty-seven percent of students who earned a three (174 students). Students who scored a three were more likely to earn a 'D' or 'F' (28 percent, 73 students) than students who scored a four (22 percent, 310 students).

Table 8. Psychology 201 Grade Distribution by English Placement Test Score: Fall 2014

PSY 201 Grade	Virginia Placement Test in English			
	Score 3		Score 4	
	#	%	#	%
A	46	17.8	354	24.9
B	72	27.9	412	29.0
C	56	21.7	281	19.8
D	39	15.1	139	9.8
F	34	13.2	171	12.1
I	0	0.0	0	0.0
W	11	4.3	62	4.4
Total	258	100.0	1,419	100.0

Note: There was one missing grade.
Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100%.