



# FOOTHILL COLLEGE

## Institutional Research and Planning

DATE: February 20, 2013

TO: Carolyn Holcroft, Instructor, Biological Sciences

FROM: Elaine Kuo, College Researcher

RE: Certificate Awards and Minimum Qualifications

### Overview

Students earning a certificate in 2010-11 and 2011-12 were identified to determine how many successfully met the ENGL/ESLL and MATH minimum qualifications. Minimum qualifications could be met by either coursework or testing. Over half the students met minimum qualifications in ENGL/ESLL and MATH, with more students meeting MATH compared to ENGL/ESLL (Table 1). This finding may reflect math requirements in certain programs, such as those in the allied health fields. Meanwhile, the percentage of students meeting minimum qualifications increased between 2010-11 and 2011-12 by roughly 10%. If minimum qualifications were instituted in ENGL/ESLL and MATH, approximately 30%-40% of students who earned certificates between 2010-2012 would not have received these awards (150 students in 2010-11, 174 students in 2011-12).

Table 1. Meeting Minimum Qualifications among Certificates Awards, 2010-2012.

	<u>2010-11</u>		<u>2011-12</u>		<u>Change</u>	
	HC	Percent	HC	Percent	HC	Percent
Certificates Awarded	357	100%	570	100%	213	60%
ENGL/ESL met	233	65%	436	76%	203	11%
MATH met	242	68%	451	79%	209	11%
ENG/ESL and MATH	207	58%	396	69%	189	11%

Table 2 examines those students who met ENGL/ESLL minimum qualifications through either coursework or placement testing. About two-thirds to three-fourths of students are meeting minimum qualifications through coursework while roughly one-fifth (at least in 2011-12) meet the requirements based on testing alone. These are not mutually exclusive categories so some students would

Table 2. Meeting ENGL/ESLL Minimum Qualifications among Certificate Awards, 2010-2012.

	<u>2010-2011</u>	<u>2011-2012</u>
Meeting ENGL/ESLL	HC	