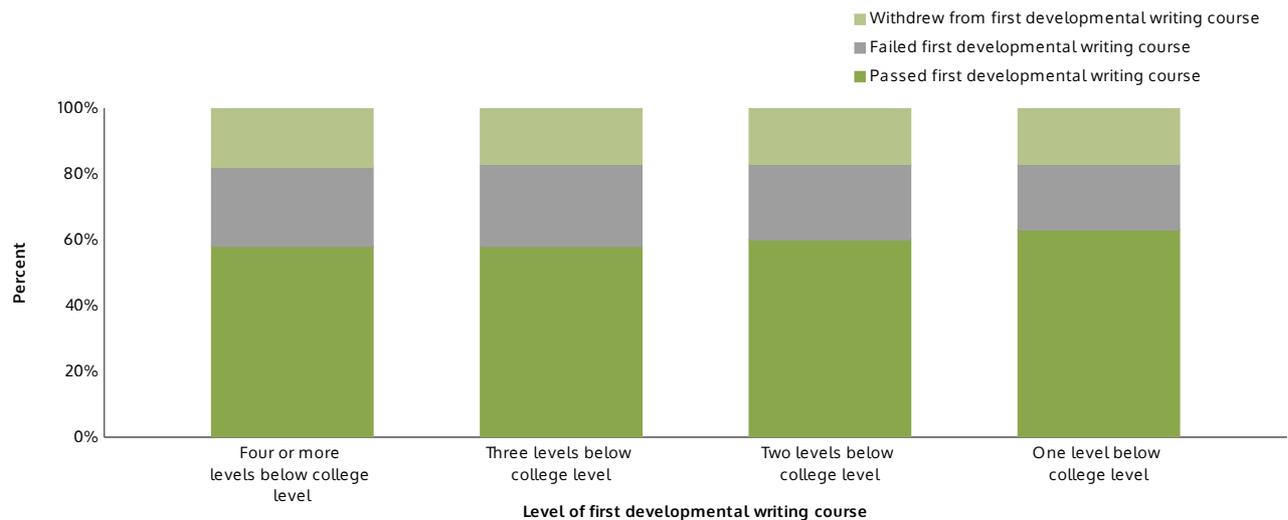


PRECOLLEGE MILESTONES

COMPLETION OF DEVELOPMENTAL WRITING: CALIFORNIA

Percentage of first-time California Community College students according to their developmental writing completion status, by level of developmental writing



What Is Measured?

Completion of first developmental writing course

Who Is Counted?

First-time students initially enrolled in fall 2002 excluding dual-enrolled high school students who enrolled in a developmental writing course within seven years

What It Tells Us

Regardless of the level in which they began, about three-fifths of students who enrolled in a developmental writing course completed their first course (58 percent to 63 percent). About one-fifth to one-quarter (20 percent to 25 percent) failed the course, while less than one-fifth (17 percent to 18 percent) withdrew from the course.

Why It's Important

Most beginning community college students must complete at least one developmental education course in mathematics or English (reading, writing, or both) (Bailey, Jeong, & Cho, 2010). For students who start in developmental courses two or more levels below the college level in a particular subject, this milestone is the first step toward completing their developmental education requirements and continuing on to college-level coursework. For students who start at one level below the college level in a particular subject, this milestone also represents the final step in completing that developmental education sequence.

ABOUT THE DATA

Developmental writing courses: include courses that offer content to improve writing skills for students who are deficient in writing.

DATA SOURCE

Perry, M., Bahr, P. R., Rosin, M., & Woodward, K. M. (2010). *Course-taking patterns, policies, and practices in developmental education in the California Community Colleges*. Mountain View, CA: EdSource.