**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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level of first developmental writing course</th>
<th>Withdrawn from first</th>
<th>Failed first</th>
<th>Passed first</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Four or more levels below college level</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three levels below college level</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two levels below college level</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One level below college level</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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**