

Summary of Pre-Collegiate Curriculum for English, ESL and Mathematics

Pre-Collegiate English Curriculum

The English Department offers one pre-collegiate writing course as part of its conventional course sequence developed in compliance with the recent legislation AB705.

English 1 + English 28

In this “co-requisite” pair, transfer-level English 1 (3 units) is paired with English 28 (2 units) for students whose default placement, per Chancellor’s office guidelines, is not English 1 alone. In the English 1+28 co-requisite pair, both sections are taught by the same instructor, sequentially, and in the same room (with some variation for hybrid and online sections). English 1+28 is designed as an English 1 with extra support—including a curriculum with strong scaffolding and additional instructional time for greater preparation in the English sequence. In addition to the co-requisite course, students seeking assistance with their English course may benefit from the following services provided by the College:

- The Writing Center: The Writing Center consults with students about writing and grammar on a walk-in basis for 30-minute sessions. An online version of the Writing Center, English 1E, is also available for students enrolled in both online and on-ground courses.
- Supplemental Instruction: The College also offers a large Supplemental Instruction (SI) program, an academic assistance program that provides free out-of-class study sessions for students enrolled in select historically challenging courses, including several pre-college English classes. SI Leaders engage students in interactive group activities to help them learn course concepts, prepare for exams, and learn effective study skills.
- Black Collegians/Adelante Sections of Pre-College English Courses: Each semester, the department offers at least one section of English 1 and English 1+ 28 for students participating in the Black Collegians and Adelante programs. When Black Collegians and Adelante students enroll in an English course as a cohort, there are greater opportunities for students to form supportive, collaborative relationships and organize study groups.

Pre-Collegiate English as a Second Language (ESL) Curriculum

Santa Monica College offers an array of pre-collegiate ESL courses, as summarized here.

Non-Credit ESL: The College offers non-credit ESL, using a multi-skill format to offer instruction at six increasingly advanced levels. Students are not required to complete a College-validated assessment instrument, as the majority of these assessment tools are not suited for students with low-level literacy skills in their native languages, as well as in English. As such, students “self-select” into the class they feel is appropriate for their skill level. Once in class, faculty observe student skill level and make recommendations to students if they believe students have not enrolled in the course appropriate to their skill level. Santa Monica College is also collaborating with the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District to offer non-credit ESL to the local communities.

Multi-skill Courses: The ESL Department offers six multi-skill courses, as well as several special

interest courses, including speaking/listening, reading and writing, and vocabulary/idioms/prepositions.

Intensive ESL Program: In addition to the non-credit ESL courses, the College offers an intensive non-credit ESL program for international students who do not possess the minimum TOEFL requirements or alternative proof of English proficiency to be admitted as an academic program F-1 international student. These multi-skills courses are designed for beginners who are literate in one language and interested in learning English for basic communication and ultimately for success in college-level ESL classes.

For Credit ESL Courses – The College offers credit-bearing ESL coursework. These courses are considered collegiate level because they fulfill foreign language requirements for non-native speakers of English. Santa Monica College views these courses as preparation for English 1 (Freshman Composition) and other college-level coursework. In the past, the ESL and English Departments shared a common essay exam to determine readiness for English 1 and worked together on the evaluation of student essays. However, the results for English language learners were disproportionately low compared to the results of native speakers. Discussions between the two departments made it clear that the processes should be separated to better serve the distinct student populations. Now the ESL Program has its own common assessment in every core course and faculty work together to norm and grade these assessments.

To support student success, the ESL Department offers the following learning supports:

- ESL Tutoring: Tutoring is offered free of charge to all non-native speakers of English currently enrolled at Santa Monica College. Instructional Assistants work with students on vocabulary, grammar, homework questions, developing topic sentences and thesis statements, essay organization and coherency, essay revision, conversation and pronunciation. The online tutoring appointment system allows for the collection of student needs data that can be used to inform curricular and instructional decisions. For example, when use data indicated that most students needed tutoring with vocabulary, word choice, and word forms, greater emphasis was placed on paraphrasing and vocabulary in the relevant ESL courses.
- ESL Workshops: In addition to tutoring, the ESL Department also offers many workshops to specific student populations. For example, conversation groups meet one day a week to practice speaking, while workshops are offered in MLA citation, thesis statement formation, and ways to avoid plagiarism. In addition, the department offers online grammar support³ and many additional online resources.
- Language Exchange: The Language Exchange is a unique opportunity offered by both the ESL and Modern Language and Cultures Departments that allows ESL students to meet and converse with native English speakers who are studying the native language of the ESL student.

Pre-Collegiate Math Curriculum

The Math Department offers three levels of mathematics courses from pre-college to college-level/transfer to higher level mathematics courses, and an array of supportive services to assist students. A summary is included here, while a full program description is included in the evidence. State Law AB 705 changed the way students were placed starting fall 2019. The law requires all students to place into a transfer level course or a transfer level course with support. The department created support courses for all first level transfer courses (Math 2, 3, 4, 21, 26 and 54). The support courses are taken in conjunction with the parent course. The

intent of the support courses is to provide just in time remediation for the students in those classes. Starting Fall 2022, the college will only be allowed to offer pre-collegiate classes to students who are in a degree program that specifically states they must take that course. This will apply to local degrees.

Pre-College Level: Pre-collegiate mathematics courses at the College include basic arithmetic, pre-algebra, and elementary algebra, as well as intermediate algebra and plane geometry. Starting fall 2022 these courses will no longer be offered.

The Math Department periodically reviews and discusses student success data for their transfer level courses with support. In recent years, in an effort to improve student success and decrease equity gaps in transfer level mathematics courses the College placed an emphasis on hiring full-time math faculty with experience working with a diverse student population. In addition, the department has implemented several new strategies and support services, including the following:

- Math Lab Students enrolled in all math courses are able to utilize the Math Lab, which provides free walk-in and one-on-one tutoring for all math students. To better support math students, all full-time math faculty must serve some of their office hours in the Math Lab and some part-time instructors elect to do so as well. Many instructors also hold study sessions in the lab.
- Black Collegians/Adelante Sections of Pre-College Math Courses: Each semester, there is a small number of first year transfer level math course sections that are designated for students participating in the Black Collegians and Adelante programs. When Black Collegians and Adelante students enroll in a math course as a cohort, there are greater opportunities for students to form supportive, collaborative relationships and organize study groups.
- Supplemental Instruction (SI): The College offers SI sessions for many of its math courses. Students may attend any SI session regardless of the course section they are attending.
- Embedded tutoring: The college offers embedded tutoring in courses with support. The tutors attend class and then hold tutoring sessions in the Math lab for those students.
- Peer Navigators: The college offers peer navigators for some sections of transfer level math courses with support. The navigators attend 3-4 classes and offer students information about opportunities at the college and answer questions.