What's Up with the Emphasis on Basic Skills?

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- What's up with the emphasis on Basic Skills?
- What is the true story on student success?
- How can students play an active role in addressing current student needs?
- This breakout addresses the latest information on what students need to succeed and how to help propel them to their educational goals.

A Test of your Knowledge

Using audience response tools –

I-Clickers

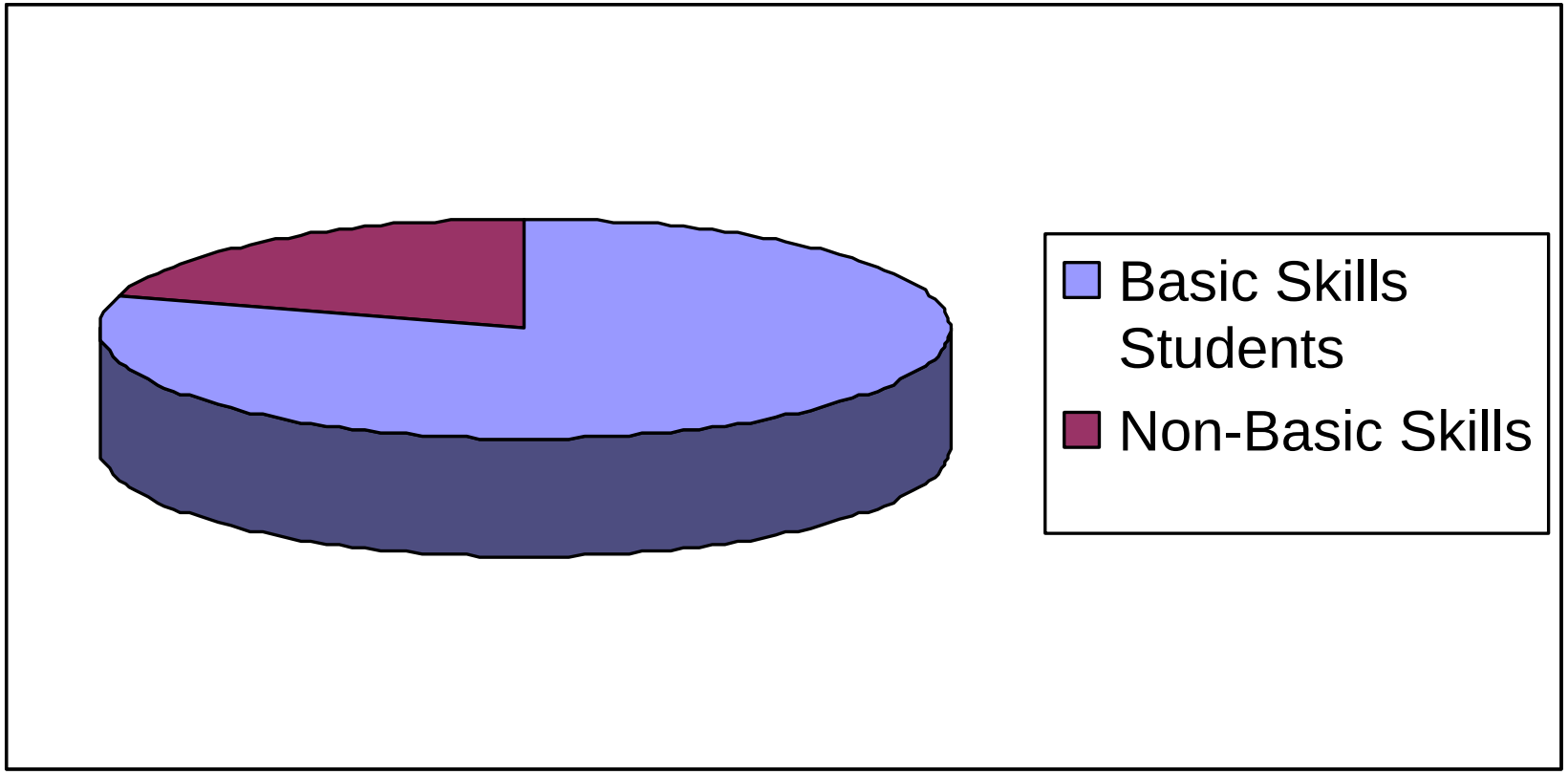
Which of the following are not considered “basic skills”?

A. Reading and writing
B. English as Second Language
C. Math
D. Study Skills – test taking
E. None – all of the above are basic skills

How many first time students in California community colleges (CCC) need basic skills work in English, math, reading or ESL?

A. Hardly any, about 10% .
B. Between 35 and 50%
C. Between 50 and 75%
D. Between 75 and 98%
E. All first time CCC students need basic skills courses

First Time Students



Answer

- Overall statewide about 75%
- At one California Community College
  - 98% of incoming students need basic skills math
  - 95% need basic skills English

How Many Are Enrolled in Basic Skills Classes?

- Of the 75% + who assess into basic skills
- Only 27.4% take basic skills classes
- Where are the rest?

Which of the following is true of basic skills students in California community colleges?

A. They often assess uniformly low on placement tests in all areas; reading, writing, math, and ESL

B. They may assess low on placement tests in one discipline while testing at college-level in other areas (i.e. a college level writer but require additional work in math)

C. They are easily identifiable in our classes by sex, age, or ethnicity.

D. They usually have the learning and study skills necessary to succeed in college-level work.

E. They are found only in the community colleges and are only rarely found at the UC and CSU campuses.

Students that receive A's and B's in high school do not generally need basic skills coursework.

A. True, students with good GPA's in high school are well prepared for college.
B. Only Advance Placement (AP) and honors students do not require basic skills work.
C. There is no relation between high school GPA and college success.
D. Students with high SAT scores never need remediation.
E. Even students with high GPA's often need basic skills coursework but not in EVERY area of basic skills.

Data

Overall (N=23)	English (N = 23)		Math (N = 23)		Reading (N= 11)		ESL (N = 15)	
Average based on Counts	%	Placements	%	Placements	%	Placements	%	Placements
Transfer level	26%	20,083	16%	12,539	33%	12,782	1%	71
One level below transfer	32%	24,100	19%	14,986	36%	13,921	9%	493
Two levels below transfer	29%	22,142	25%	19,626	24%	9,136	20%	1,102
Three or more levels below	13%	9,814	39%	30,080	7%	2,895	70%	3,964
Total	100%	76,138	100%	77,231	100%	38,733	100%	5,629

Depth of Remediation necessary?

- What does this mean to students?
- Years of basic skills catch up? Why would this work when they haven't gotten it so far?
- Should we make community college easier?
- What's up with reading? Reading may be the core. Without reading you can not do math word problems

How many students who start 3 or more levels below college-level actually make it to a college-level course?

A. Less than 10%

B. 15- 30%

C. Approximately 40%

D. Over 60%

E. 80% or more

Why are people concerned about the basic skills needs of students ?

A. Placement tests that do not really relate to things needed in real life and work.
B. Low student test results such as SAT and ACT.
C. Changes in the technical demands on workers.
D. A cruel attempt by academics to raise the bar.
E. Nationwide evidence of declining abilities.

Evidence of Declining Abilities

- First time in our nation that reading is going down
- Mathematics scores of 8th graders are some of the lowest in the nation 44th

Students bound for CSU and UC never need remediation.

A. True

B. False

Data

- In 2008-2009 of the 350,000+ students
  - With completed A-G
  - Headed for CSU and on track with all required courses
  - With a great GPA
  - Only 17% were at college level English

reference: CSU Early Assessment Program EAP

What did student senators tell faculty?

- They do not want to major in basic skills
- They do not want to waste time
- They want assessment and placement to work
- They want adequate numbers of sections available
- They want good guidance about educational planning
- They think we should talk to high school students early about preparation

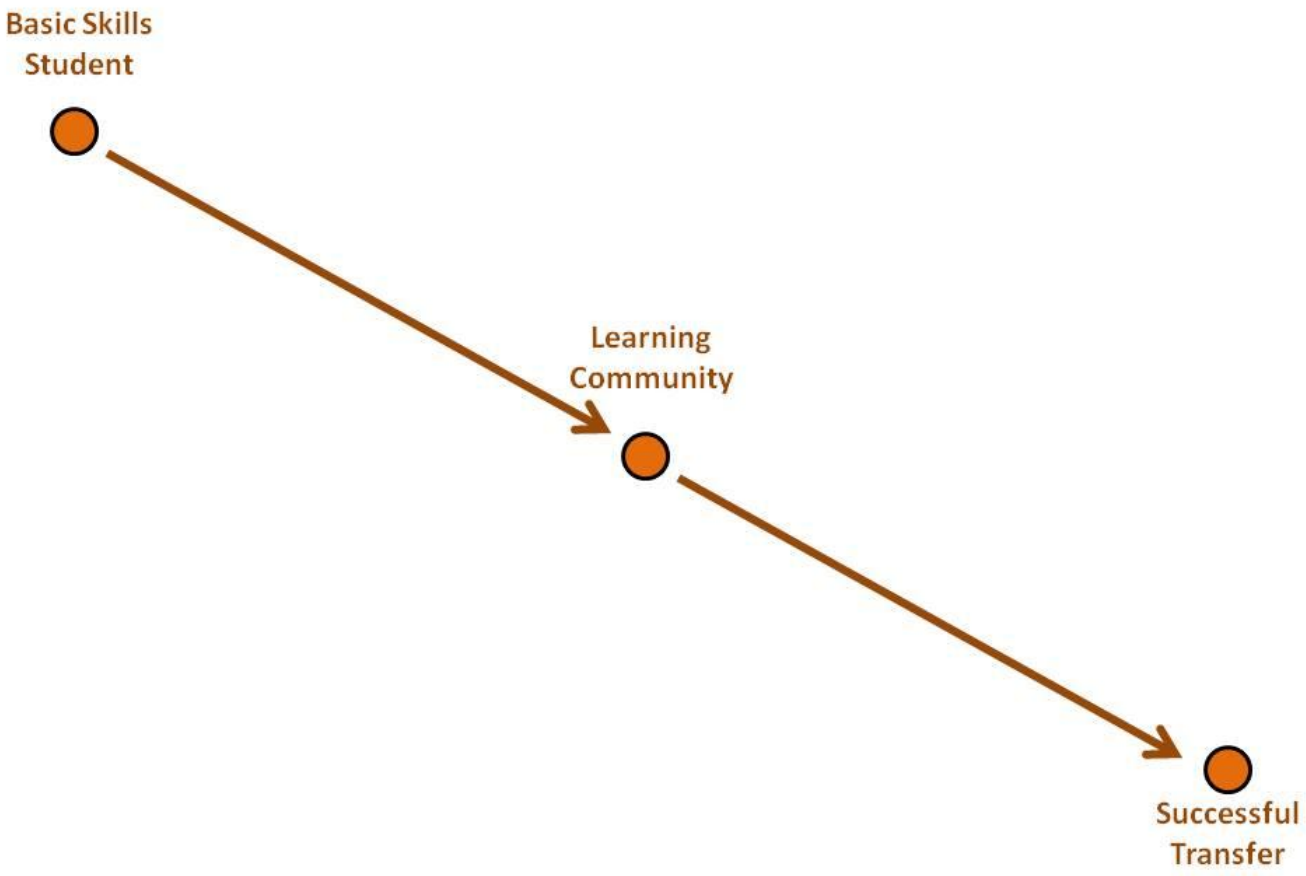
Student Ed plans – not a joke or a waste of time - data

- Students who know their goals
- Students with declared majors
- Students with an Ed plan
- Students who see a counselor

Are far more likely to be successful

- An important point – Navigating college is a basic skill!

Students Progress in a Non-Linear Fashion



Why is basic skills such as big deal ?

- Student Equity
- Perfect Storm
- Growing needs of workplace

Ethnicity

Ethnicity	% of Total Headcount	% of Total Enrollment in Credit Basic Skills & ESL	% of Enrollment in Non-credit Basic Skills & ESL
African American	7.49%	11.24%	6.23%
Asian/ Filipino/Pac Islander	16.40%	17.00%	19.39%
Hispanic/Latino	28.79%	41.40%	43.72%
Native American	0.86%	0.92%	0.54%
White	35.40%	22.57%	18.69%
Total	100%	100%	100%

What is the total success rate of students in all three public California College Systems?

The U.S. Academic Pipeline- What's up?

Latina/os	Native Americans	African Americans	Whites	Asians Americans
Elementary School 100/100	Elementary School 100/100	Elementary School 100/100	Elementary School 100/100	Elementary School 100/100
High School 54/51	High School 72/70	High School 73/71	High School 84/83	High School 78/83
Graduate College 11/10	Graduate College 12/11	Graduate College 15/13	Graduate College 24/28	Graduate College 40/48
Graduate Degree 4/4	Graduate Degree 4/4	Graduate Degree 5/4	Graduate Degree 8/11	Graduate Degree 13/22
Doctorate 0.3/0.4	Doctorate 0.4/0.6	Doctorate 0.3/0.5	Doctorate 0.6/1.4	Doctorate 1.4/4.4

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2000 first number is females; second is males

When a student needs remediation in basic skills, what options exist?

A. Noncredit
B. Counseling
C. Directed Learning Activities - DLA
D. Critical Academic Skills - CAS
E. All of the above

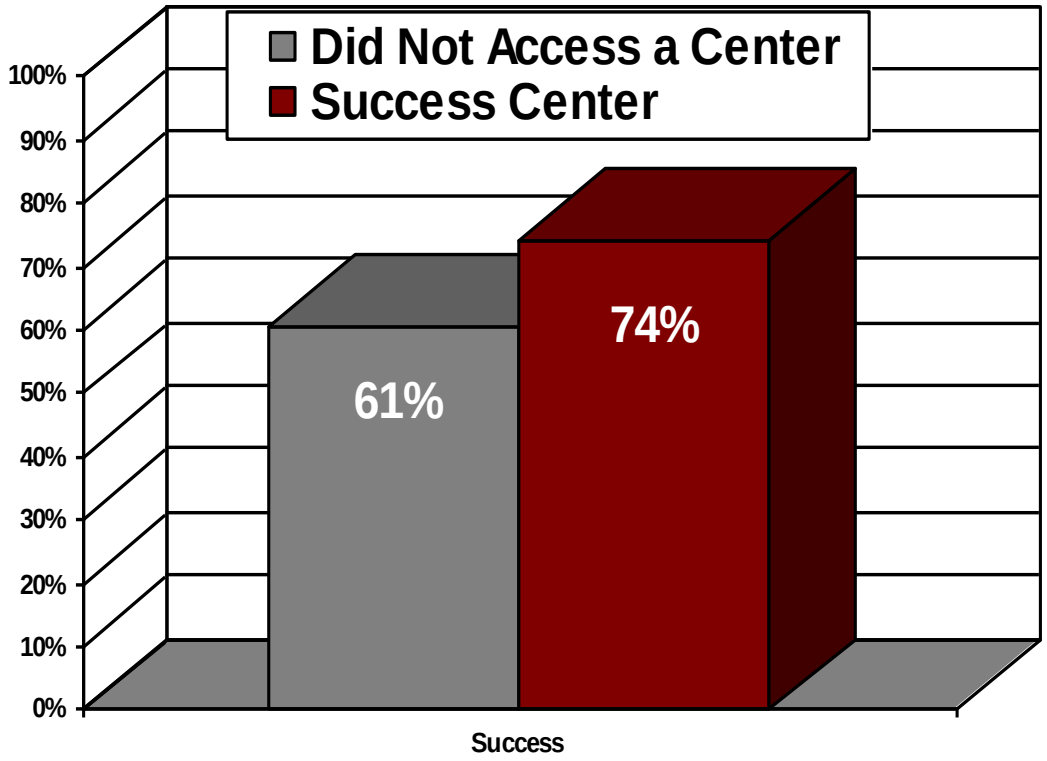
The cost with regards to students

- Time
- GPA
- Financial aid
- Units
- Average community college student works 36 hours per week

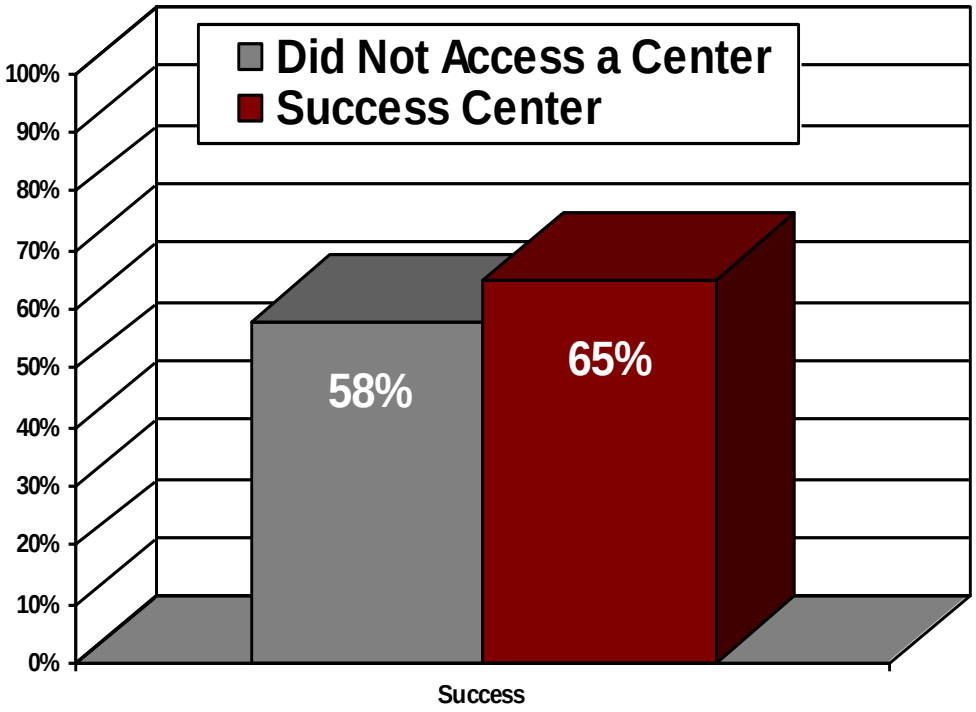
What can be done

- Finessed assessment
- Placement that works
- Counseling
- Student Success Centers
- Specialized programs – EOPS, Puente

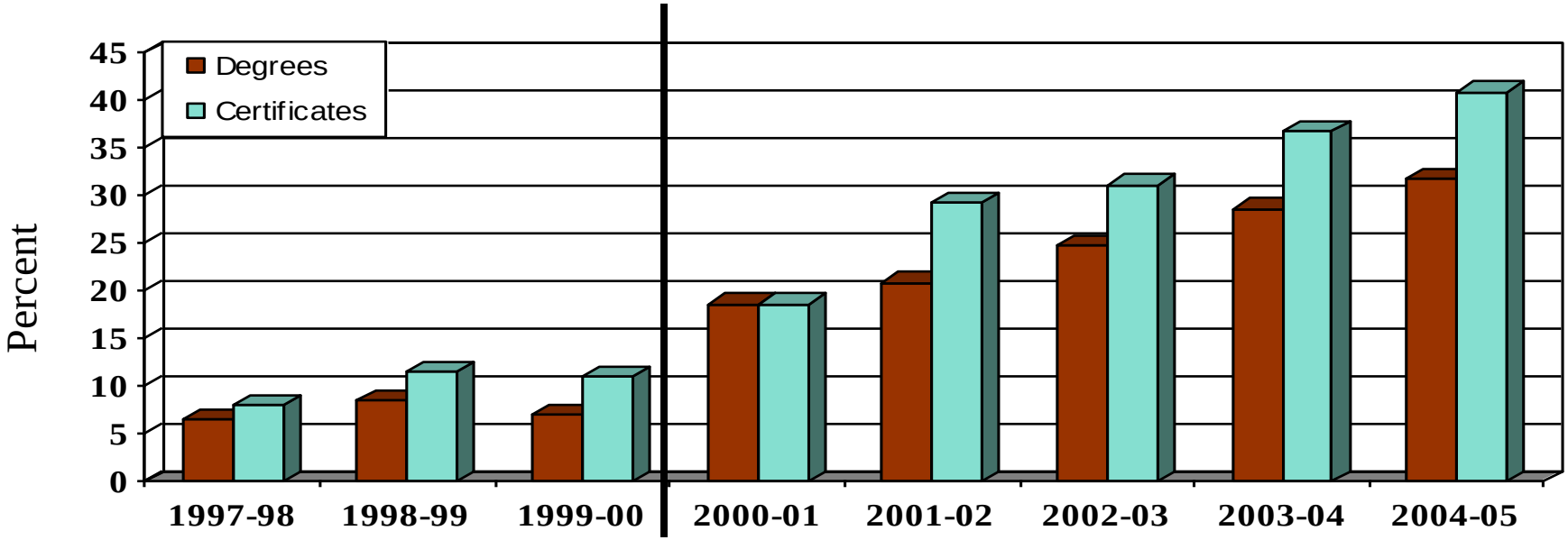
Relationship between Chaffey College Success Center Access and Success in Transfer Courses: 2004 – 2005



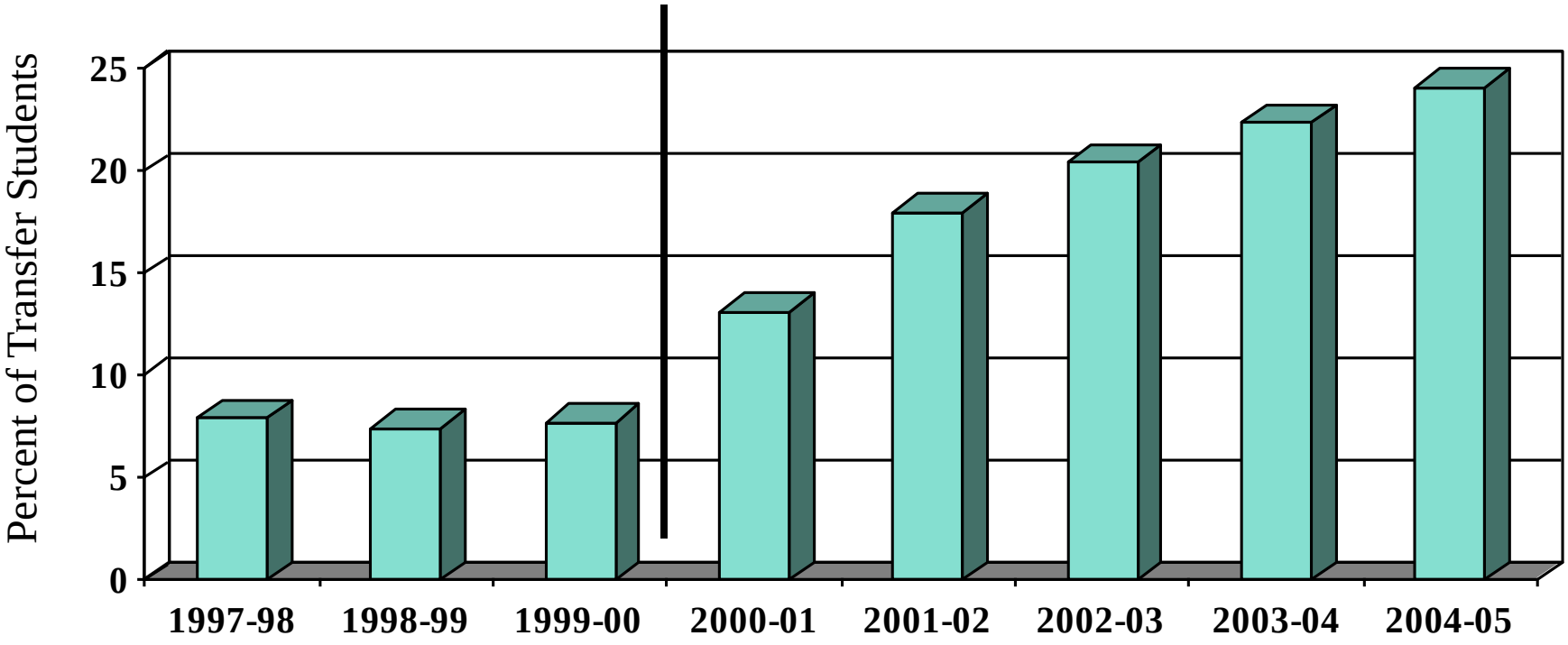
Relationship between Chaffey College Success Center Access and Success for Basic Skills Students



Percent of Chaffey College Degree & Certificate Earners Who Completed at Least One "Basic Skills" Course



Percent of Chaffey College Students Who Completed at Least One "Basic Skills" Course Who Subsequently Transferred to a Four-Year Institution



Critical Academic Skills

- Punctuation
- Thesis statements
- Comma Splices
- Use of Pronouns
- Word Problems
- Fractions
- Ratios
- www.bakersfieldcollege.edu

First Year Experience and Accelerated Summer Programs

- Pasadena City College – Summer Jam
- El Camino College Project Success
- Santa Ana College First Year Experience
- College of the Canyons – accelerated math and English programs

What can students do?

- Do not go the path of least resistance
- Do not talk only to friends
- Do not consider basic skills as a waste of time

What can student leaders do

- Meet with Academic Senate
- Meet with Counseling
- Get involved and recognize the need

What can Student leaders do?

- Talk to counseling – have them visit classes
- Talk to academic senate about sections and alternative ways to meet needs
- Talk to students about what is helpful
- Create venues to help students understand the problems
- Involve students in student government

So What's up with the Emphasis on Basic Skills?

- All students needs certain basic skills to succeed in transfer level courses
- The workplace is requiring higher skills
- Students are not getting these skills prior to college
- Some students are missing the entire foundation; some students just need a brush up
- Addressing these skills will promote more transfers and better employment opportunities