

Achieving the Dream Report Series



June 16, 2008--- Revised April 8, 2011

A Comparative Analysis on the Effect of Gender on Course Completion Rates For Developmental and Gatekeeper Courses

This report will continue to examine a comparison of Fall 2006 and Fall 2007 course completion rates for developmental and “gatekeeper” courses by focusing on gender. The attached graphs and table present examples of how male and female students at NECC compare in the successful completion of developmental and gatekeeper courses. In this study, “success” is defined as course completion with a grade of C or better (C- is excluded).

Female students did substantially better in Developmental Reading (021) in Fall 2007 over Fall 2006, increasing their completion by 7%. Males showed no change between the 2 years in this particular course (51%).

Basic Writing completion and gatekeeper Sciences (BIO 103, 121 and 122) are course areas which also demonstrate an increase in success for both genders. Males completed Basic Writing with a 4% increase and females demonstrated a 3% increase. Males completed the Science courses with a 5% increase while females demonstrated a 3% increase between the 2 fall terms.

In Math course work, both developmental (MAT 022) and gatekeeper level (MAT 120/130) there is the most substantial difference between male and female course completion rates. Males show an increase in both Math areas over the 2 year period

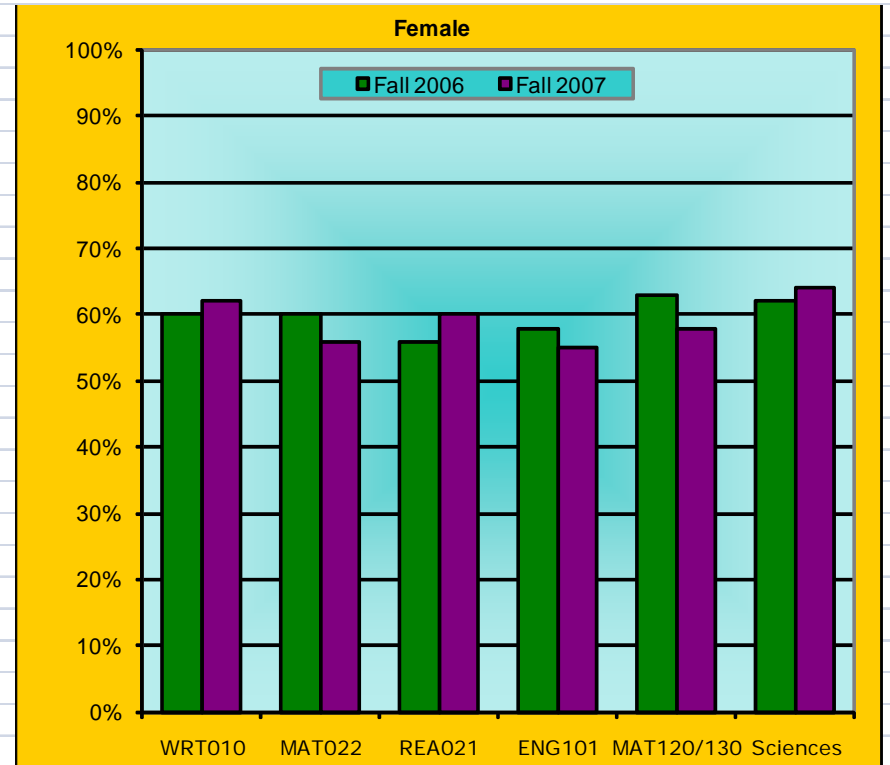
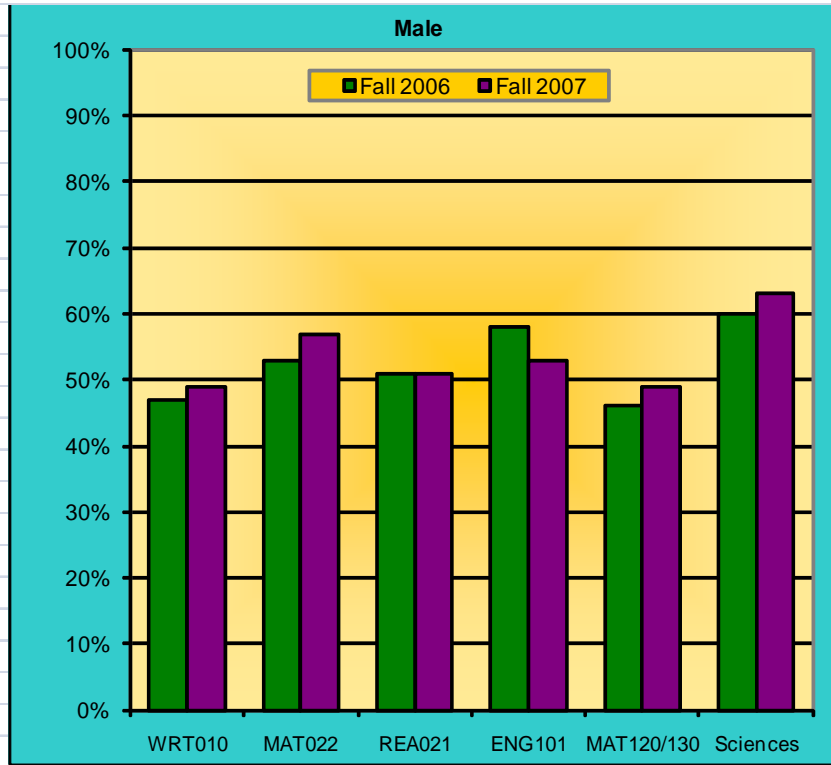
of this study (up 8% in Dev. Math (022) and up 7% in Math 120/130) however female completion rates declined (-7% in Dev. Math (022) and -8% in Math 120/130).

Both male and female student completion rates decreased in English 101. Males show a -9% decrease while their female counterpart show a -5% decrease between Fall 2006 and Fall 2007.

If we look at those students who successfully complete Basic Writing in the Fall and then go on to complete English 101 in the subsequent spring there is a 29% increase for Male students, and an 10% increase for Females between the 2 years of the study.

Interpretations of these findings as well as suggestions for further analysis are always welcome. Please direct questions and comments to Thomas Fallon, Dean of Institutional Research and Planning, via phone at 978-556-3866 or email at tfallon@necc.mass.edu.





	MALE					FEMALE				
	Fall 2006		Fall 2007		1 Year	Fall 2006		Fall 2007		1 Year
	# Enrolled	% Complete	# Enrolled	% Complete	Change	# Enrolled	% Complete	# Enrolled	% Complete	Change
Basic Writing	175	47%	195	49%	4%	220	60%	237	62%	3%
Dev. Math (MAT 022)	358	53%	368	57%	8%	513	60%	520	56%	-7%
Dev. Reading (REA 021)	91	51%	103	51%	0%	171	56%	177	60%	7%
English 101	436	58%	447	53%	-9%	560	58%	549	55%	-5%
College Math (120/130)	142	46%	169	49%	7%	175	63%	189	58%	-8%
BIO 103, 121 & 122	156	60%	178	63%	5%	582	62%	630	64%	3%