

SUBJECT: The Through-Put Argument: Our Need for a New Educational Model for Composition Courses

DATE: 27 November 2002

I was worried that if we increased the number of ENGH 0990 sections and lowered the number of ENGH 0890 sections, that we may run out of students to teach. Therefore, I met with Jeff Hoyt to address my concern. He provided me with the following information. Regarding fall semesters, here is the number of first-time freshmen who qualified for either ENGH 0890 or 0990 according to the current placement system (and Jeff's data):

Fall 1998:	1,167 students.	All these students were placed into either ENGH 0890 or 0990.
Fall 1999:	911 students.	
Fall 2000:	859 students.	
Fall 2001:	872 students.	
Fall 2002:	831 students.	

Because I had this information, I was motivated to use the VAX system to see all the students who had actually enrolled in either ENGH 0890 or 0990. I added that information, as well as other information, to the following chart.

Column B: All the first-time freshmen who were placed into ENGH 0890 or 0990.
Column C: All the students who actually enrolled into ENGH 0890 or 0990.
Column D: The difference between the number of students placed into either ENGH 0890 or 0990 and the number of students enrolled in those courses (i.e., Column B minus Column C).

<u>Column A</u>	<u>Column B</u>	<u>Column C</u>	<u>Column D</u>	
<i>Fall Semesters</i>	<i>Qualified Students</i>	<i>Enrolled Students</i>	<i>Students Not Served or Enrolled</i>	
Fall 1998:	1,167	675	492 +	+ Add number of transfer students
Fall 1999:	911	692	219 +	
Fall 2000:	859	682	177 +	
Fall 2001:	872*	849	23 +	
Fall 2002:	831	726	105 +	

Regarding the fall of 2001, I have placed an asterisk beside 872* because that number, as well as the other numbers in Column B, are misleading. According to Jeff Hoyt, 872 first-time freshmen were placed into either ENGH 0890 or 0990 that semester, but he also reports that 55 transfer students were also placed into those courses. Therefore, in the fall of 2001, 78 students (55 + 23 = 78) could have enrolled in either ENGH 0890 or 0990 (i.e., over three sections). And all the numbers in Column D are low because transfer students are not included! Hence, all numbers in Column D have the plus sign.

The point is that if we increase the number of ENGH 0990 sections in fall and spring semesters, we would be in a better position to serve more students who would like to complete ENGH 0990 during an academic year. This situation would represent a more efficient way to serve our students than currently exists.