



OAKLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE®

# **Oakland Community College Transfer Course Placement Policy**

Requested by  
Mary A. McGee, Chairperson, Academic Senate  
Oakland Community College

Prepared by  
Eileen Brennan, Research Analyst  
The Office of Institutional Research

September 2009

Oakland Community College  
Transfer Course Placement Policy  
September 2009

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>METHODOLOGY</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>RESULTS</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>POTENTIAL TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>LIST OF CHARTS</b>	
CHART 1 STUDENTS REGISTERED IN SELECT GENERAL EDUCATION DISTRIBUTION LIST COURSES BY ENGLISH PLACEMENT	3
CHART 2 ENROLLEE SUCCESS RATE IN SELECT GENERAL EDUCATION DISTRIBUTION LIST COURSES BY ENGLISH PLACEMENT	4
CHART 3 COMPLETER SUCCESS RATE IN SELECT GENERAL EDUCATION DISTRIBUTION LIST COURSES BY ENGLISH PLACEMENT	5
<b>LIST OF TABLES</b>	
TABLE 1 TOTAL SUCCESS RATES IN FINE ARTS/HUMANITIES GENERAL EDUCATION DISTRIBUTION COURSES, FALL/WINTER 2005-2009	6
TABLE 2 TOTAL SUCCESS RATES IN SOCIAL SCIENCE GENERAL EDUCATION DISTRIBUTION COURSES, FALL/WINTER 2005-2009	7
TABLE 3 TOTAL SUCCESS RATES IN MATH AND SCIENCE GENERAL EDUCATION DISTRIBUTION COURSES, FALL/WINTER 2005-2009	8
<b>APPENDIX</b>	
PLACEMENT DETERMINATION	9
GENERAL EDUCATION DISTRIBUTION LIST COURSES REVIEWED	10

**Oakland Community College  
Transfer Course Placement Policy  
September 2009**

## **INTRODUCTION**

At the May 28, 2009 meeting of the Oakland Community College (OCC) Academic Senate, Senate Leadership was commissioned to “gather data over the summer to demonstrate the need for placement requirements for registration into transfer-level courses.” To that end, an analysis of select general education distribution list student outcomes in relation to student English placement was conducted.

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- The number of students who placed into Developmental English registering for General Education Distribution List courses increased 58% from Fall 2005 through Winter 2009.
- Students who placed into Developmental English successfully completed, overall, at least 10% fewer General Education Distribution List courses than students who placed into English 1510.
- Students who placed into Developmental English successfully completed, overall, at least 20% fewer General Education Distribution List courses than students who completed English 1510 with a grade of C or better prior to term enrollment.
- The success rate in General Education Distribution List courses for students who placed into Developmental English and for those who placed into English 1510 decreased 10% between Fall 2008 and Winter 2009.
- When viewing success as enrollee success, or registering, completing, and earning a grade of C or better, students who placed into Developmental English had the lowest success rates in foreign languages.
- In reviewing success rates for Social Science General Education Distribution List courses, students who placed into Developmental English had the lowest success rates in Geography and Economics.
- In reviewing success rates for Math and Science General Education Distribution List courses, students who placed into Developmental English had the lowest success rates in Foundations – Natural/Life Science, followed by Chemistry, then Biology.

**Oakland Community College  
Transfer Course Placement Policy  
September 2009**

## **METHODOLOGY**

The Office of Institutional Research collects data regarding student placement and student courses taken at regular intervals during the academic term. The data from the Fall and Winter terms Fall 2005 term through the Winter 2009 were collected and summarized to determine into which level of English students placed: Developmental English or English 1510. Additionally, course histories were collected to establish a category, Completed English 1510, indicating completion of English 1510 with a grade of C or higher prior to the term of enrollment. (See Appendix 1, Placement Determination).

OCC offers a large number of courses eligible for transfer to other postsecondary education institutions. The courses selected for review are courses on the General Education Distribution List, i.e. courses that will satisfy the General Education Distribution requirements for an Associate Degree. (See Appendix 2, General Education Distribution List Courses Reviewed; note, 'PER' and 'EXL' courses were excluded from selection, as were any courses not specifically designated by course number).

### Definitions

- Registration – a course section record based on a student's registration.
- Valid registration – course outcome of a transcript grade or mark.
- Completion – course outcome of a *grade* A through F.
- Incomplete course – course outcome of *marks* Incomplete, Non Attendance, and Student Initiated or Faculty Initiated Withdrawal.
- Enrollee Success -- registering and completing a course with a C or better grade; marks of Incomplete, Non Attendance, and Withdrawal factor in as lack of success.
- Completer Success – not dropping or withdrawing; completing a course with a C or better grade; marks of Incomplete, Non Attendance, and Withdrawal are not applied to the ratio.

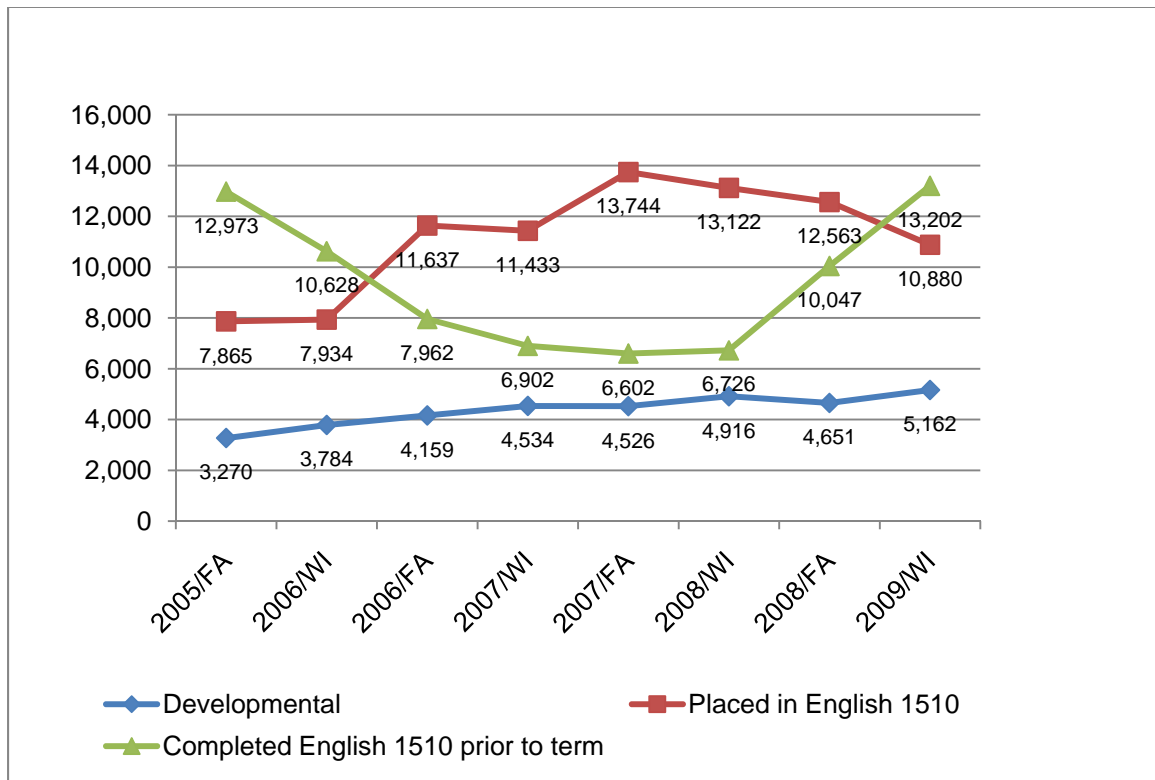
**Oakland Community College  
Transfer Course Placement Policy  
September 2009**

**RESULTS**

Registration in Select General Education Distribution List Courses

Slightly over half (55%) of courses taken during Fall and Winter terms 2005 through 2009 were those on the modified General Education Distribution List Courses (Appendix 2), resulting in a large data set for analysis.

**Chart 1: Students Registered in Select General Education Distribution List Courses by English Placement**



The number of students who placed into Developmental English taking the selected General Education Distribution list courses increased steadily from Fall 2005 through Winter 2009. Overall, the number of students who placed into Developmental Education taking the selected General Education Distribution List Courses increased 58% from Fall 2005 through Winter 2009.

The number of students who placed in English 1510 grew and then declined, with a low of 7,865 students during Fall 2005 registering for the General Education Distribution List Courses, a peak of 13,744 registering during Fall 2007, and a decline to 10,880 in Winter 2009. While there was an overall increase in the number of students who placed into English 1510 taking General

**Oakland Community College  
Transfer Course Placement Policy  
September 2009**

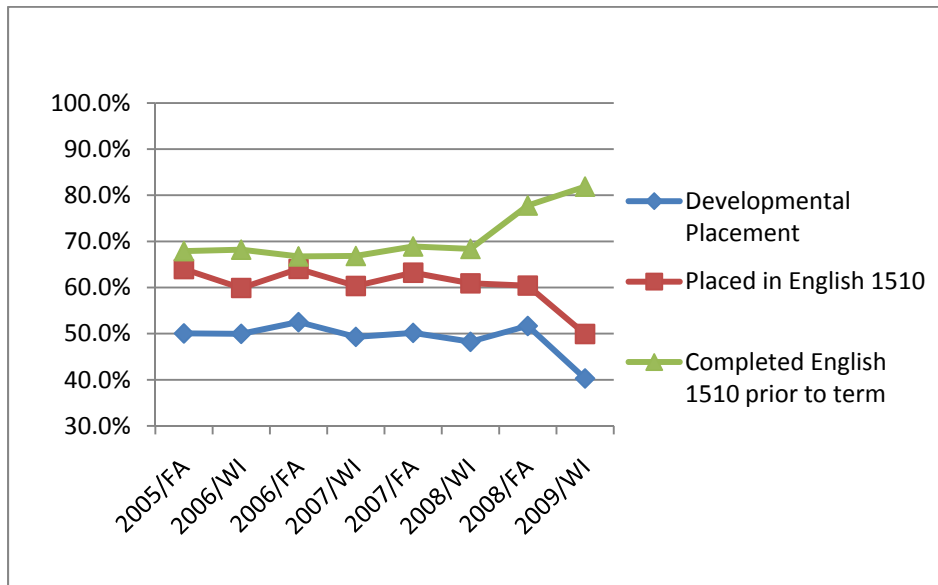
Education courses, (38% from Fall 2005 through Winter 2009) the trend indicates continuing decreases.

The number of students who had completed English 1510 prior to the term registering for the selected General Education Distribution List Courses followed the opposite path – decreasing and then increasing, with an initial high of 12,973 students registering in Fall 2005, and a low of 6,602 registering in Fall 2007. However, this decrease was reversed, with the number of these students registering for General Education Distribution List Courses during Winter 2009 term (13,202) exceeding the initial number of students registering during Fall 2005 term (12,973). The trend indicates continuing increases in the number of students who completed English 1510 prior to enrollment in a term registering for General Education Distribution List courses.

**Success Rates**

Overall success can be measured through Enrollee Success, (indicating registering and completing with a grade of C or better) or Completer Success, (indicating not withdrawing or receiving an incomplete mark, and completing a course with a grade of C or better).

**Chart 2: Enrollee Success Rate in Select General Education Distribution List Courses by English Placement**

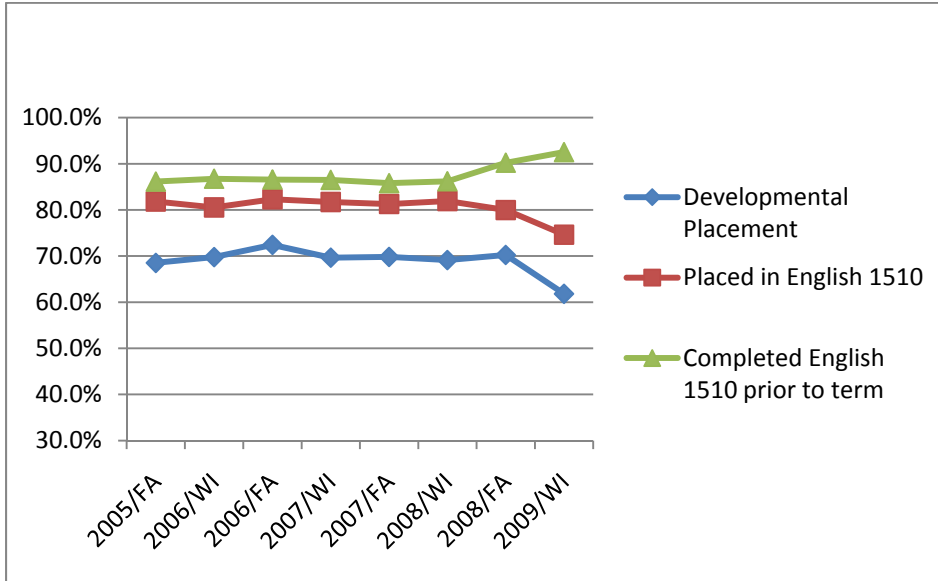


The enrollee success rate for students who placed into Developmental English ranged from a high of 52.5% in Fall 2006 to a low of 40.3% during Winter 2009 with the rate decreasing over time. The enrollee success rate for students who placed into English 1510 followed a similar pattern; however, the success rate for English 1510 ready students was consistently 10% above the rate for students who placed into Developmental English.

**Oakland Community College  
Transfer Course Placement Policy  
September 2009**

The trend-lines reflect a steady decrease in success rates for students who placed into Developmental English and for students who placed into English 1510.

**Chart 3: Completer Success Rate in Select General Education Distribution List Courses by English Placement**



Overall, students who placed into Developmental English completed courses and earned grades C or better at a 10% lower rate than students who placed into English 1510. These Developmental placement students consistently completed with a C or better at a 20% lower rate than students who had completed English 1510 prior to enrollment in the given term.

**Oakland Community College  
Transfer Course Placement Policy  
September 2009**

Outcomes by Course Subject

Course outcomes by the selected general education distribution list subject area were evaluated. Total registrations with outcomes were summed for the Fall and Winter terms 2005 through 2009, and enrollee and completer success rates calculated. The following tables summarize the success rates in the General Education Distribution areas of Fine Arts/Humanities, Social Science, and Math and Science.

**Table 1: Total Success Rates in Fine Arts/Humanities General Education Distribution Courses, Fall/Winter 2005-2009**

Prefix	Subject	Developmental Placement		English 1510 Placement		Completed English 1510 prior to term		
		Enrollee Success	Completer Success	Enrollee Success	Completer Success	Enrollee Success	Completer Success	
<b>FOREIGN LANGUAGES</b>								
ARB	Arabic	63.2%	82.8%	68.3%	92.5%	69.7%	94.2%	
CHI	Chinese	44.4%	85.7%	59.7%	97.6%	58.5%	88.6%	
FRE	French	37.4%	65.5%	59.6%	82.3%	63.1%	88.6%	
GER	German	29.3%	51.1%	55.3%	76.2%	62.7%	83.8%	
ITA	Italian	28.0%	74.3%	56.2%	88.9%	62.2%	89.6%	
JPN	Japanese	30.5%	50.0%	52.4%	70.2%	59.1%	79.1%	
RUS	Russian	18.8%	40.0%	58.4%	77.6%	66.7%	83.3%	
SPA	Spanish	40.4%	64.5%	61.5%	81.5%	63.9%	85.7%	
<b>ARTS</b>								
ART	Art	59.8%	85.5%	67.1%	92.5%	79.6%	96.7%	
MUS	Music	49.7%	71.0%	60.5%	79.7%	73.5%	89.8%	
PHO	Photographic Technology	63.2%	93.8%	64.1%	95.2%	81.4%	96.3%	
THE	Theatre	70.1%	85.2%	72.8%	92.0%	84.3%	94.0%	



**Oakland Community College  
Transfer Course Placement Policy  
September 2009**

**Table 1: Total Success Rates in Fine Arts/Humanities General Education Distribution Courses, Fall/Winter 2005-2009 (continued)**

<b>OTHER FINE ARTS AND HUMANITIES</b>									
ENG	English	62.0%	80.8%		60.8%	81.8%		77.5%	92.8%
ESL	English As a Second Language	56.0%	70.5%		72.2%	100.0%		81.2%	87.3%
FSH	Foundations-Humanities	58.5%	77.5%		67.6%	92.5%		85.4%	97.8%
HUM	Humanities	46.7%	65.1%		60.3%	79.2%		71.1%	86.4%
PHI	Philosophy	46.8%	71.1%		60.4%	83.0%		72.2%	89.8%
SLS	Sign Language Studies	82.4%	82.4%		82.9%	88.7%		75.4%	87.8%
SPE	Speech	100.0%	100.0%		66.7%	80.0%		81.3%	92.9%

Among the Fine Arts/Humanities courses, the difference in *enrollee* success rates between students who placed in Developmental English and those who placed in English 1510 was greatest in the foreign languages (with the exception of Arabic).

**Table 2: Total Success Rates in Social Science General Education Distribution Courses, Fall/Winter 2005-2009**

Prefix	Subject	Developmental Placement		English 1510 Placement		Completed English 1510 prior to term	
		Enrollee Success	Completer Success	Enrollee Success	Completer Success	Enrollee Success	Completer Success
ANT	Anthropology	44.8%	67.3%	59.1%	80.0%	74.4%	88.9%
ECO	Economics	37.8%	58.9%	56.1%	78.6%	68.4%	84.2%
GEO	Geography	36.4%	45.6%	57.0%	69.3%	72.1%	81.7%
HIS	History	46.3%	64.4%	59.1%	77.5%	73.3%	87.5%
POL	Political Science	48.2%	64.7%	65.3%	81.9%	74.8%	87.2%
PSY	Psychology	49.3%	67.4%	69.5%	85.1%	81.1%	91.4%
SOC	Sociology	56.8%	76.4%	70.3%	88.0%	80.6%	92.8%

Among the Social Science courses, the difference in *enrollee* success rates between students who placed into Developmental English and those who placed into English 1510 was greatest in Economics and Geography.

**Oakland Community College  
Transfer Course Placement Policy  
September 2009**

**Table 3: Total Success Rates in Math and Science General Education Distribution Courses, Fall/Winter 2005-2009**

Prefix	Subject	Developmental Placement		English 1510 Placement		Completed English 1510 prior to term	
		Enrollee Success	Completer Success	Enrollee Success	Completer Success	Enrollee Success	Completer Success
BIO	Biology	38.8%	56.8%	61.3%	77.8%	69.5%	84.4%
CHE	Chemistry	35.1%	57.7%	49.5%	76.3%	59.9%	83.8%
FSN	Foundations-Natural/Life Science	30.6%	51.5%	50.2%	66.1%	59.0%	71.5%
GSC	General Science	47.7%	63.0%	59.7%	74.6%	71.0%	83.8%
MAT	Mathematics	40.2%	64.5%	48.8%	73.0%	53.8%	79.4%
PHY	Physics	42.6%	69.3%	68.2%	84.2%	68.5%	87.4%
PSC	Physical Science	81.8%	81.8%	68.2%	86.6%	77.5%	93.2%

Among the Math and Science courses, the difference in *enrollee* success rates between students who placed into Developmental English and those who placed into English 1510 was greatest in Physics and Biology.

**POTENTIAL TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION**

- The General Education Distribution List Course registrations trend line for students who placed in English 1510 tended to move in the opposite direction from the trend line for students who had completed English 1510 prior to a term.
  - How does the availability of English 1510 sections affect student outcomes in General Education Distribution List Courses?
  - What changes have occurred that result in more students completing English 1510 before enrolling in General Education Distribution List Courses?
  
- Success rates for students who placed in Developmental English and for those who placed in English 1510 showed a decreasing trend, with the greatest decline occurring between Fall 2008 and Winter 2009 terms. In comparison, success rates for students who completed English 1510 prior to a term held steady, with a 10% increase at the time the other groups showed a decrease.
  - Are the placement criteria adequate for placement into English 1510 and Developmental English?
  - Are grading standards changing?

**Oakland Community College  
Transfer Course Placement Policy  
September 2009**

**Appendix 1: Placement Determination**

The following scores are available in the Colleague Student Information System:

Test	Test "Score"	Recommended Course Placement
CPS.ENG.PLC	1	ENG-1055
CPS.ENG.PLC	2	ENG-1060
CPS.ENG.PLC	3	ENG-1510
ASSESS.XMP	3	ENG-1510
ACT.ENG.PLA	1	ENG-1055
ACT.ENG.PLA	2	ENG-1060
ACT.ENG.PLA	3	ENG-1510

Placement into English 1055 or English 1060 is considered Developmental English placement.

Course histories were obtained for students by term. Completion of English 1510 with a grade of C or better prior to the start of the relevant term resulted in categorization of "Completed English 1510."

**Oakland Community College  
Transfer Course Placement Policy  
September 2009**

**Appendix 2: General Education Distribution List Courses Reviewed**

<b>Course Code</b>	<b>Course Title</b>		<b>Course Code</b>	<b>Course Title</b>
ACC-1810	Principles of Financial Acctg		GSC-1580	Astronomy
ACC-1820	Principles of Managerial Acctg		GSC-1590	Cosmology
ANT-1520	Physical/Archaeology Anthro		GSC-1620	Intro to Environmental Geology
ANT-1540	Intro to Cultural Anthro		HIS-1510	World Civ to Beg of Modern Era
ANT-2510	Comp Studies/Cultural Anthro		HIS-1520	World Civ From Modern Era
ANT-2750	Myth/Magic/Folk Religion		HIS-1550	Contemporary World
ARB-1510	Beginning Arabic I		HIS-1700	Michigan History
ARB-1530	Beginning Arabic II		HIS-2510	United States History to 1877
ART-1510	Basic Drawing		HIS-2520	US History 1877 to Present
ART-1520	Basic Design		HIS-2610	African Amer History to 1877
ART-1530	Acrylic Painting		HIS-2620	African Amer Hist 1877- PRESENT
ART-1540	Ceramics		HUM-1510	Arts/Lit: Origins of West Trad
ART-1550	Sculpture		HUM-1710	World Religions
ART-1560	Art Appreciation		HUM-1900	Introduction to the Film
ART-1570	Oil Painting		HUM-2720	Bible
ART-1580	Art and Crafts		HUM-2900	Literature Into Film
ART-1600	Watercolor Painting		ITA-1510	Beginning Italian I
ART-1610	Jewelry		ITA-1530	Beginning Italian II
ART-1650	Figurative Sculpture		ITA-2610	Intermediate Italian I
ART-1670	Stained Glass I		JPN-1510	Beginning Japanese I
ART-2600	American Art		JPN-1530	Beginning Japanese II
BIO-1500	Environmental Science		JPN-2610	Intermediate Japanese I
BIO-1511	Life Science		JPN-2620	Intermediate Japanese II
BIO-1530	Intro Biology: Molecular/Cell		MAT-1140	Plane Geometry
BIO-1560	Biodiversity & Ecology		MAT-1150	Intermediate Algebra
BIO-1570	Microbiology of Health/Disease		MAT-1500	Finite Mathematics
BIO-2540	General Zoology		MAT-1540	College Algebra
BIO-2550	General Botany		MAT-1560	Trigonometry
BUS-1100	Introduction to Business		MAT-1580	Statistics
BUS-2030	Business Law I		MAT-1600	Applied Calculus
BUS-2040	Business Law II		MAT-1630	College Algebra/Trigonometry
BUS-2530	Principles of Management		MAT-1730	Calculus I

**Oakland Community College  
Transfer Course Placement Policy  
September 2009**

MKT-2520	Fund Marketing Theory/Practice	MAT-2530	Math for Elementary Teachers I
CHE-1000	Introductory Chemistry	MUS-1510	Piano I
CHE-1320	Survey Organic/Biochemistry	MUS-1520	Piano II
CHE-1510	General Chemistry I	MUS-1540	Music History: Western Mus I
CHE-1520	General Chemistry II	MUS-1550	Music History: Western Mus II
CHI-1510	Beginning Chinese I	MUS-1560	Understanding of Music
CHI-1530	Beginning Chinese II	MUS-1570	Guitar I
ECO-2610	Economics I	MUS-1580	Guitar II
ECO-2620	Economics II	MUS-1585	World Music
ENG-1510	Composition I	MUS-1590	Music History: Rock
ENG-1520	Composition II	MUS-1600	History of Music/Jazz
ENG-1610	Women in Literature	MUS-1685	Music History: Jazz
ENG-1700	Reading in Areas of Interest	MUS-1810	Voice I
ENG-1710	Intro Lit: Short Story/Novel	MUS-1820	Voice II
ENG-1720	Intro to Lit: Poetry/Drama	MUS-1830	Vocal Literature
ENG-2300	Science Fiction & Fantasy	MUS-1850	Piano Literature
ENG-2510	American Lit Before Civil War	PHI-1510	Intro to Philosophy
ENG-2520	American Lit Since Civil War	PHI-1610	Ethics
ENG-2530	World Literature I	PHI-1710	Introduction to Logic
ENG-2540	World Literature II	PHO-1220	Fundamentals of Photography
ENG-2550	British Literature I	PHY-1030	Concepts in Physics
ENG-2560	British Literature II	PHY-1610	College Physics I
ENG-2650	Children's Literature	PHY-1620	College Physics II
ENG-2750	Intro to Shakespeare	PHY-2400	Engineering Physics I
ENG-2760	Intro to Shakespeare	PHY-2500	Engineering Physics II
ENG-2770	Contemporary Literature	POL-1510	American Government
ENG-2780	Intro Playwrtg & Screenwrtg	POL-2520	Urban and State Politics
ENG-2800	Creative Writing	POL-2530	International Relations
ESL-1010	English Conversation I	POL-2610	Comparative World Politics
ESL-1011	English Conversation	PSC-1560	Physical Science I
ESL-1020	English Conversation II	PSY-2510	Introduction to Psychology
ESL-1021	Intermed Oral Communication	PSY-2630	Psych Organizational Behavior
ESL-1410	Listening/Comm Skills I	PSY-2710	Child Development
ESL-1420	Listening/Comm Skills II	PSY-2810	Psychology of Adjustment
ESL-1510	Writing/Reading I Acad	RUS-1510	Beginning Russian I

**Oakland Community College  
Transfer Course Placement Policy  
September 2009**

ESL-1520	Writing/Reading II Acad Pur II		RUS-1530	Beginning Russian II
ESL-2011	Advanced Oral Communication		RUS-2610	Intermediate Russian I
ESL-2410	Lect Compre/Notetaking I		RUS-2620	Intermediate Russian II
ESL-2420	Lect Compre/Notetaking II		SLS-1030	American Sign Language IV
ESL-2510	Write/Read for Acad Purp III		SOC-2510	Sociology
ESL-2520	Writing/Reading IV Acad IV		SOC-2520	Analysis of Social Problems
FRE-1510	Beginning French I		SOC-2610	Introduction to Criminology
FRE-1530	Beginning French II		SPA-1510	Beginning Spanish I
FRE-2610	Intermediate French I		SPA-1530	Beginning Spanish II
FRE-2620	Intermediate French II		SPA-2610	Intermediate Spanish I
FSH-1500	Foundations of Humanities		SPA-2620	Intermediate Spanish II
FSN-1500	Found Natural/Life Science		SPE-2620	Oral Interpretation of Lit
GEO-1510	Physical Geography		SSC-2610	Marriage and Family
GEO-1520	World Geography		SSC-2710	Mass Media and Society
GER-1510	Beginning German I		THE-1561	Introduction to Theatre
GER-1530	Beginning German II		THE-1571	Acting I
GER-2610	Intermediate German I		THE-1580	Acting II
GER-2620	Intermediate German II		THE-1800	American Comedy
GSC-1530	Introductory Geology			