

BC & AB 705

Frequently Asked Questions

What is AB 705?

AB 705 is a State Assembly Bill that was signed into law by the Governor in October 2017, to be implemented by Fall 2019. It requires all California Community Colleges to...

1. Use high school performance data for placement into English and Math courses. This means that BC will use high school GPAs and no longer use placement tests to determine placement.
2. Use “highly unlikely” to succeed standard to place students lower than transfer-level. This means that students who have a higher chance of completing the transfer-level course by direct placement should be placed into the transfer-level course. For all current BC English and Math courses, student transfer course completion rates have been determined by State data to be higher for students if they are placed directly into BC transfer-level courses with “just-in-time” remediation of required knowledge than placing students lower than transfer-level.
3. Optimize a student’s probability of completing transfer-level English and Math* in one year. This means that BC will develop by Fall 2019 new curriculum options for transfer-level English and Math to provide weaker students with the support and/or context to have the best chance at passing their required English and Math courses within one year.
4. Optimizing student’s probability of completing ESL sequence in three years. This means that BC will develop by Fall 2019 new EMLS options for students who are learning English as non-English speakers will be able to progress quickly to and through their transfer-level English course.

Why did AB 705 become law?

Over the past 5 years, a number of states have passed laws that have required similar placement and curricular changes. Those states have been successful on average in doubling English completion and quadrupling math completion need for graduation.

What will happen to MATH B60 in Spring, Summer, and Fall 2019 and why?

- MATH B60 has fewer face-to-face sections in Spring and Summer. It is still offered in the Math Lab as a hybrid format using the Aleks program, and we will accommodate students interested in taking this course this way.
- MATH B60 will not be a course in Fall into which we will legally be allowed to place students or to require it as a prerequisite for any other course. Essentially, it will not have direct value to a student’s academic progress towards degree completion. At this time, the math faculty are still discussing if this course may still exist in a noncredit format in Fall or not.
- The faculty and rooms that would have been devoted to MATH B60 sections in Spring and Summer are being mostly shifted to teaching math courses that have immediate value for graduation. We have thousands of students who have completed their math remediation but cannot get into that last math course for graduation. We are intent on helping them graduate this Spring.

What will happen to ENGL 60 and ENGL 53 in Spring and why?

- There will be limited course offerings of these classes, but we will have them. As students are placed into ENGL50, ENGL B1A, or ENGLB1A with a co-requisite there isn't the need we once had.
- These courses are primarily offered for the students who need to repeat them to get better grades. Students can self-select to take a course below their placement, but BC won't be placing students into those classes anymore. Local and national data have shown students will benefit from the placement in the higher classes.

What will happen to ENGL 60 and ENGL 53 in Fall 2019 and why?

- ENGL 60 and ENGL 53 will not be courses in Fall 2019 into which we will legally be allowed to place students. Nor will be able to require it as a prerequisite for any other course. Essentially, it will not have direct value to a student's academic progress towards degree completion. At this time, the English faculty are still discussing if ENGL 60 course may still exist in a noncredit format.
- The faculty and rooms that would have been devoted to ENGL 60/ENGL 53 sections are being mostly shifted to teaching transfer-level courses that have immediate value for graduation and meet the increasing needs of students. We are intent on helping students graduate sooner and get the classes they need.

What should I do if I never took MATH B60 or have a "W" for MATH B60, but my education plan indicates that I should pass it?

- If you need eventually to take a transfer-level math course, there is little value to risking an "F" in MATH B60 in Spring or Summer, since it will lower your GPA. Doing a review of math in the non-credit, non-risk ACDV B201C course in the Student Success lab is your best option, and then in Fall 2019, take the math course you need. The curriculum is being changed to give you just-in-time support for the most challenging transfer-level math courses, and this will give you a higher chance of success.
- If you need only a math course to graduate and not transfer, then either wait until Fall or take TECM B52 in the Spring semester. This course is now a degree-applicable math course for students only completing a local AA degree with no intention to transfer.

What should I do if I took MATH B60, but I got a "D" or an "F" grade? Can I get this grade removed from my transcripts?

- First, it is important to realize that all of your grades stay on your transcripts forever. That "F" your first semester in a course, even if it is not needed for graduation, will still be there when future employers look at your transcripts.
- You have two ways to have those non-passing grades removed from your over-all GPA (not your transcripts). You can retake MATH B60 and pass it in Spring or Summer, or you can use the Academic Renewal process that is detailed on the BC website. Search for "Academic Renewal" to find it quickly.

What should I do if I took ENGL60 or ENGL 53, or ACDV 80, but I got a "D" or an "F" grade? Can I get this grade removed from my transcripts?

- First, it is important to realize that all of your grades stay on your transcripts forever. That "F" your first semester in a course, even if it is not needed for graduation, will still be there when future employers look at your transcripts.
- You have two ways to have those non-passing grades removed from your over-all GPA (not your transcripts). You can retake MATH B60 and pass it in Spring or Summer, or you can use the Academic Renewal process that is detailed on the BC website. Search for "Academic Renewal" to find it quickly.

How does a "D" or "F" grade in MATH B60, ENGL 60, ENGL 53, or ACDV 80 impact my GPA if I never retake the course but pass my transfer-level math or English course?

- Your grade does not calculate into your transfer GPA for CSU, but it may still be counted by private universities, even if BC removed a "D" or "F" from your over-all GPA. The best plan is to not get a "D" or "F".

Please talk with a counselor to determine the exact impact of any “D” or “F” grade on your current or future plans.

I am in a local AA degree that requires MATH B70, not a transfer-level math course. I have not yet taken MATH B70, so what should I do?

- You can still take MATH B70 in Spring and Summer.
- This Spring, you may be able to take TECM B52 and use that for graduation. Talk with a counselor to be certain this will work for your AA degree.
- MATH B70 is being planned to be replaced by a course MATH B75 in Fall 2019. This is not yet finalized. Additionally, MATH B70 (by AB 705) is still an allowed course for credit at BC.

I hear that AB 705 expects me to complete my required math and English courses in one year. Does that mean that I am allowed to take math for only two semesters at BC? What if I fail MATH B22, ENGL B1A, or PSYC B5 two times, may I take it a third semester?

- AB 705 sets down expectations for every California community college to optimize its curriculum to maximize the probability a student will be able to complete their transfer-level math or English course in 2 semesters. That is driving all colleges to improve their math and English curriculum to benefit more students.
- Fortunately, that means for students that if you need 3 or more semesters to finish your math or English you can. BC is limited to having a 2-semester series of courses and co-requisites to get you through. Noncredit options still exist to provide you with no-risk help in improving your math and English skills now and after Fall 2019. ACDV B201 A, B, and C are good options for getting yourself prepared without risking a bad grade on your record. Talk to your counselor/advisor for more details.

If I am placed into a transfer-level math or English course, may I still take a lower-level math or English course, if I feel it I need it?

Yes. You can always take a course lower than you have been placed, but BC is effectively limited by AB 705 and other requirements to place based on data that sets you up for success and completions. If you want to take classes below your placement you can. Options will still be available to provide you with support.

I have not been good at math or English my entire life, how will BC help me be successful at passing a college-level math or English course without any pre-requisite courses?

Now is a good time to get some math help through the Student Success Lab ACDV B201C course if you need help with math. Take ACDV B201A and/or B to help with reading and writing. Also talk with a counselor/advisor to determine if you should take TECM B52 for your degree instead of a lengthy math remediation sequence. In Fall 2019, you will also have some new math options that are being designed to help you succeed more quickly.

Will a lot more students fail math when they could have passed their required math course if they started lower and worked slowly over two or more years?

Right now, students who start in prerequisite remediation have a far high probability of failing out before completing their transfer-level English and math. Data nationally and from within California all show that students from all groups do better at passing their English and math if we put them directly into the courses they need with co-requisite just-in-time support.

Why when I cannot be successful at Algebra could I be successful at Statistics? Isn't Statistics more difficult than Algebra? Do I need to know Algebra before I take Statistics to be successful at Statistics?

Courses like Statistics use more quantitative reasoning and digital tools to help students meet their math requirement. Additionally, courses in context, like PSYC B5 and TECM B52 can help students be more success with that contextualized focus. Really, there is a lot, lot less algebra needed in these courses than most

students think and fear. That is why students who struggled to pass developmental algebra courses for semesters can pass PSYC B5 more than 90% of the time.

Can I take Statistics in Spring 2019 even if I have not completed a pre-requisite math course and placed lower than Statistics?

Please talk with a counselor. You may be able to be placed higher based on your high school transcripts.

Will all current students have their placements redone for Fall 2019?

Yes. At this moment it looks like we will be required to redo all placements for all current students, so even if you failed a lower level course, you may be placed higher than that into a co-requisite supported course in Fall 2019. This will save more students time to becoming successful BC graduates. Some students are already being given a different placement for Spring 2019 because the English department already created their B1A support course and are moving towards the full compliance in steps that most benefit students.

What is changing in Spring 2019? If I had a High School GPA of 2.0 and I was placed into transfer-level English (ENGLB1A) will I still be placed there?

Yes, but some students will be required to take an additional course with their B1A (a co-requisite class that supports your success in that class) taught by the same instructor. This additional course meets right after your B1A class once a week. National data shows students dramatically increased their likelihood to succeed when they had this kind of support. This is a new course for us and we hope to see similar student outcomes.

If I am placed into ENGLB1A with a co-requisite course do I really need to attend that extra class?

Yes! It is a required course that works alongside your transfer English class. The co-requisite is not optional. It is there to help you succeed. If you are placed into a co-requisite you must complete that class. If you drop the co-requisite you will also be dropped from your English B1A class and vice versa. We made this class a .5 lab course which means you get a great active learning environment with minimal impact on your pocketbook.

What will the co-requisite for English B1A look like? What will I do in there?

Your ENGL B1A teacher will teach the co-requisite class as well. It will occur right after your class one day a week if you meet twice a week. If you meet once a week it will usually occur right after your class. It is a lab class, which means you will engage in activity based learning. You will be offered opportunities to deepen your understanding of core concepts and B1A specific content. This course has had significant impacts on student success in other colleges.

Why is ENGL B1A already using co-requisite support?

Since 2015, the College has been modifying placement for English to allow more students to complete ENGL B1A without remediation. More recent changes to placement has put students into ENGL B1A where they most likely need some additional just-in-time academic help to have a good chance at success. This placement is not 100% where we will be when AB 705 is fully implemented by Fall 2019. At the same time, it is similar at what has been successfully happening at other community colleges in the State, including Porterville College in our own District.

What will happen to EMLS?

The State Chancellor's Office is giving us more time to work on the appropriate curriculum and placement processes for our EMLS program. A variety of curricular changes for EMLS are being proposed, but these will most likely complement our current courses, not replace them. Fortunately, EMLS does have the 2 semester requirement for success as is the case for English and math, so a curriculum can be offered that meets the needs of these students with very differing language gaps.