

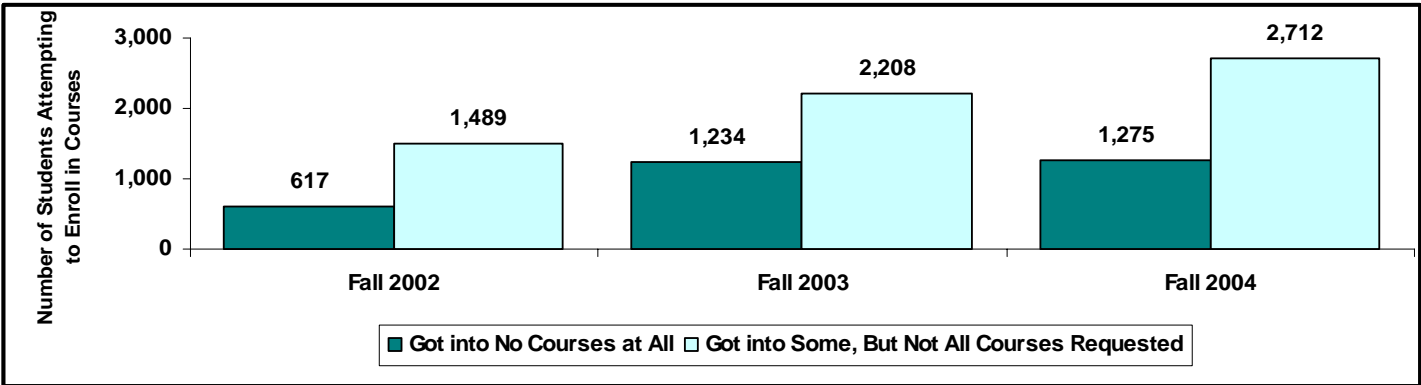
DEMAND CONTINUES TO EXCEED SUPPLY OF COURSES IN LOS RIOS COLLEGES: FALL 2004

Analysis of the demand for Los Rios colleges' courses in Fall 2003, compared to the previous fall showed that unmet demand for courses was on the rise. This unmet demand grew again in Fall 2004, matching a similar trend of population growth in the Sacramento area, which increased from 1.63 million in January 2002, the peak year for fall enrollment growth in Los Rios, to 1.73 million by January 2005, for a 6.3% rate of growth. Even though the Los Rios colleges have seen tremendous enrollment growth over the last several years, the number of students actually enrolling in Fall 2003 declined for the first time in eight years, by 4.9% and remained relatively unchanged in Fall 2004, dropping a mere 0.2%. Analysis of the increase in the number of students and applicants who remained on Wait Lists in Fall 2004 compared to the previous two years suggests that demand is growing increasingly higher, despite the stagnant number of students who are able to enroll.

With facilities that have not kept pace with the demand of the local area for community college education, Los Rios Community College District (LRCCD) had a fairly large number of individuals who were unable to move from Wait Lists into classes last Fall. There were 2,106 students who were unable to get any or all of their courses in Fall 2002. Of this, 29.3% were unable to get any class at all, while 70.7% were able to get some but not all of their classes. In Fall 2003, there was an increase of 64.5% who could not get classes; of the 3,442 students who did not get classes, 35.9% were unable to get any class at all, while 64.1% were able to get some but not all of their classes.

The following chart shows that by Fall 2004, there was a 15.5% increase over the Fall 2003 figures, with 3,987 students unable to get some or all of their courses; 32.0% were unable to get any class at all, and 68.0% got some but not all of their classes. The number of students who remained on Wait Lists getting into no courses at all more than doubled (106.6%) over the three fall terms, from 617 students in Fall 2002 to 1,275 in Fall 2004. Those who were able to get some but not all of their courses increased by 82.1%, from 1,489 to 2,712 students district-wide. Moreover, there was an additional 3,281 students who attempted to enroll in classes in Fall 2004 who chose not to go onto a Wait List for their desired courses.

Number of LRCCD Students Who Were Unable to Get into Any or All of Their Courses: Fall 2002 through Fall 2004

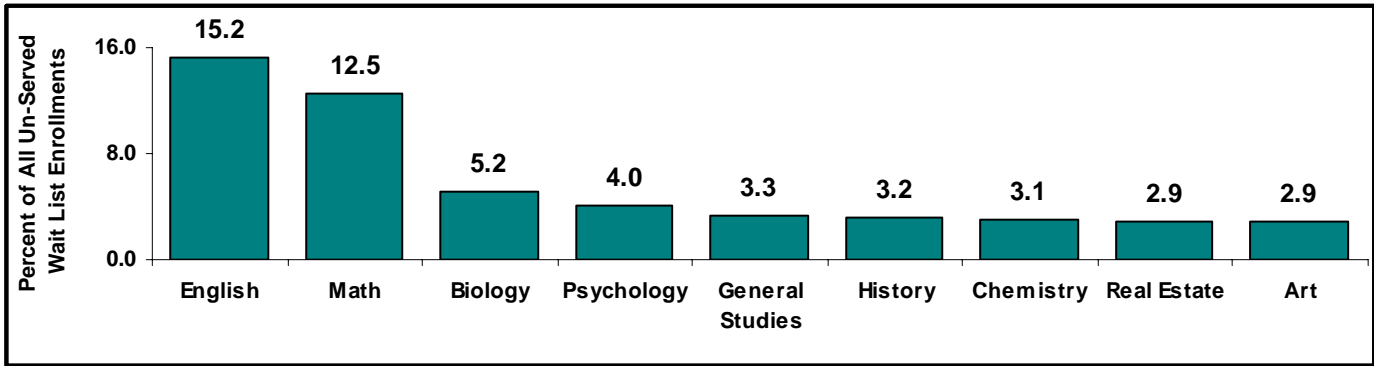


Technical Notes:

All three falls reflect data at First Census. Fall 2002 and Fall 2003 figures vary slightly from last year's report, because of upgrades to the PeopleSoft system causing the unavailability of Wait List data at the end of the semester beginning in Fall 2004.

The 3,987 students who were not moved from Wait Lists into classes in Fall 2004 attempted to enroll in 4,747 different courses. Of interest are those subject areas with the highest un-served enrollment demand, illustrated in the following chart. The top nine subjects account for more than half of the unmet enrollment demand for courses (52.4%), while the top four subjects account for 36.9%.

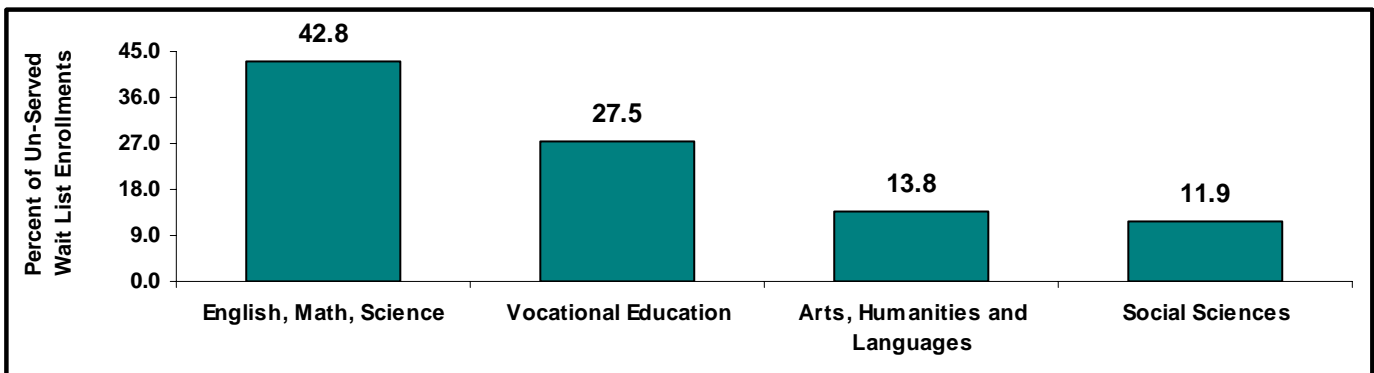
Proportions of Course Enrollments Where Students Remained on a Wait List by Top Eight Subject Areas: Fall 2004



Looking at the courses that provide students with their desired educational opportunity last fall shows that 67.8% of the attempts to enroll were for transferable courses to baccalaureate degree granting colleges and universities. Approximately 8.9% of the attempts were for basic skills courses which include reading, math, English and English as a Second Language (ESL), noting that some ESL courses are transferable.

An overall classification of courses by type, rather than by the more narrowly defined subject, is also useful for review. Those courses that provide general education make up 68.6% of the course enrollments where students remained on Wait Lists and were not served; these include the English/math/science courses, arts/humanities/foreign language courses and social science courses. Vocational Education courses make up 27.5% of the course enrollments where students remained on Wait Lists and were not served. The remaining course types include English as a Second Language (1.3% of un-served Wait List enrollments) and Physical Education (2.7% of un-served Wait List enrollments).

Proportions of Course Enrollments Where Students Remained on a Wait List by Course Type: Fall 2004



Clearly, many area residents with important education and training interests cannot be served by Los Rios colleges. Though courses offerings were not cut for Fall 2004, demand is clearly continuing to grow as the Sacramento area population grows, such that many area residents are simply not being served. This unmet demand is not only a frustration for potential students trying to enroll, it is also a frustration to many who are able to enroll, requiring that they take longer to complete their programs of study. Since the Sacramento region depends upon an educated workforce to help sustain local economic development, it is important that the district continues to seek ways to accommodate more students in the Los Rios colleges.

This **Research brief** was written by Judith Beachler, Director of the Office of Institutional Research. It is based on data generated from the LRCCD Research Database, developed and managed by Minh La, IT Analyst II. Additional copies of this **Research brief**, may be requested by e-mail: IR@losrios.edu OR by telephone: 916-568-3131. Visit our website at: <http://irweb.losrios.edu>.

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