

From Lasers to Skills-Builders: Creating Meaningful Student Groups for Encouraging and Monitoring Progress towards Completion

Methodology

This report presents an analysis of Santa Barbara City College student data based on methodology developed by Chabot College. Representatives of Chabot College presented their findings at the Research and Planning Group for California Community Colleges’ Strengthening Student Success Conference in October 2013. The primary purpose of their work was to organize students into a series of “Educational Goal Groups” using the following methodology:

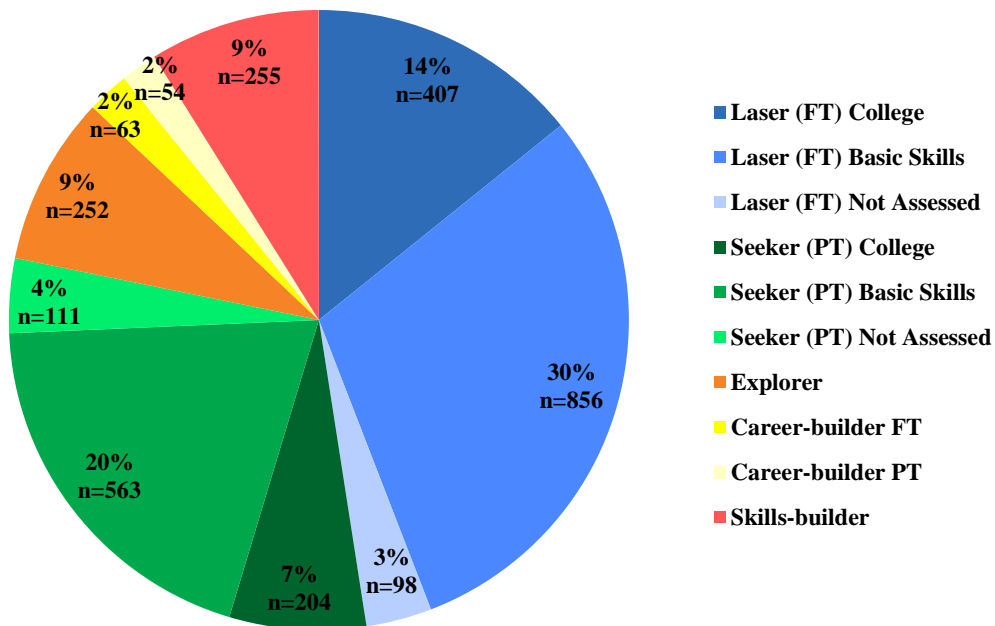
Ed Goal	Units	English Assessment	Student Ed Goal Groups
Transfer or Degree	Full-time	College	Laser (FT) College
		Basic Skills	Laser (FT) Basic Skills
		Not Assessed	Laser (FT) Not Assessed
	Part-time	College	Seeker (PT) College
		Basic Skills	Seeker (PT) Basic Skills
		Not Assessed	Seeker (PT) Not Assessed
Undecided	6+ units		Explorer
Certificate or Job Training	Full-time		Career-builder FT
	Part-time (6-11 units)		Career-builder PT
Cert/Job/Und/Pers Devel	Under 6 units		Skills-builder

Observations

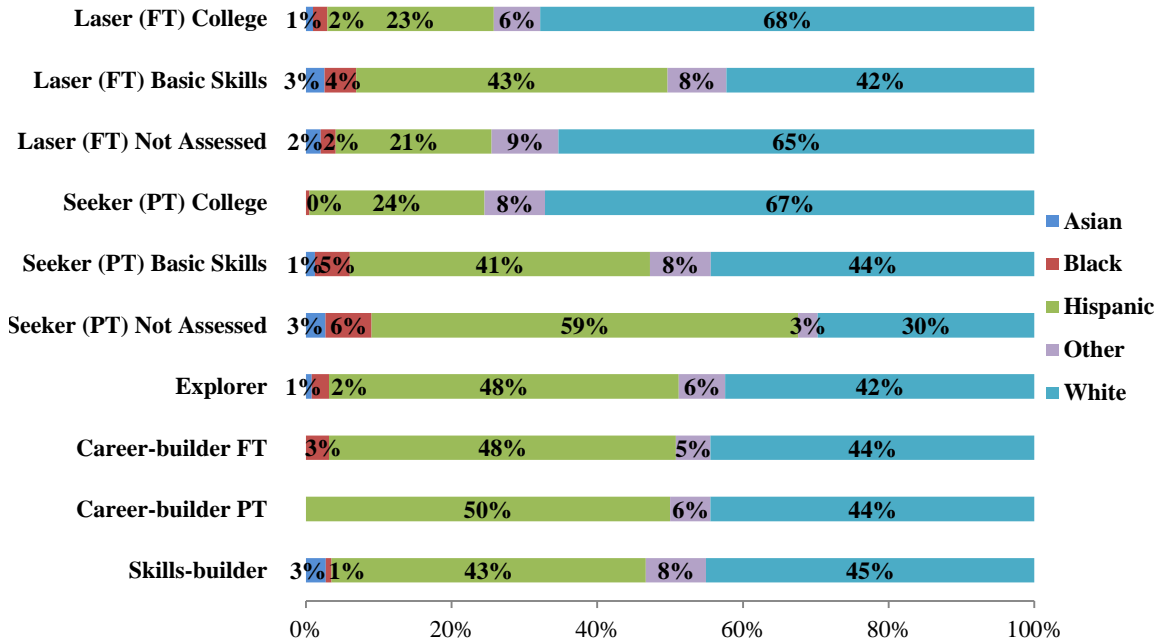
Forty-seven percent (47%) of first-time students in fall 2011 are identified as Lasers, meaning they have declared an educational goal of degree or transfer and they are enrolled in 12 or more units. Fourteen percent (14%) are college-ready, and 30% are below college level in English. Fifty-four percent (54%) of the college-ready laser students complete a degree or certificate or transfer to a 4-year institution within three years, compared to 29% of those starting below college level in English. While there is a

noticeable disparity between these groups, also worth noting is how few students complete degrees, certificates, or transfer in a three year period, even when they arrive prepared for college level work. When the lasers, seekers and explorers educational goal groups are combined, only 28% complete a degree, certificate, or transfer to a 4-year institution within three years.

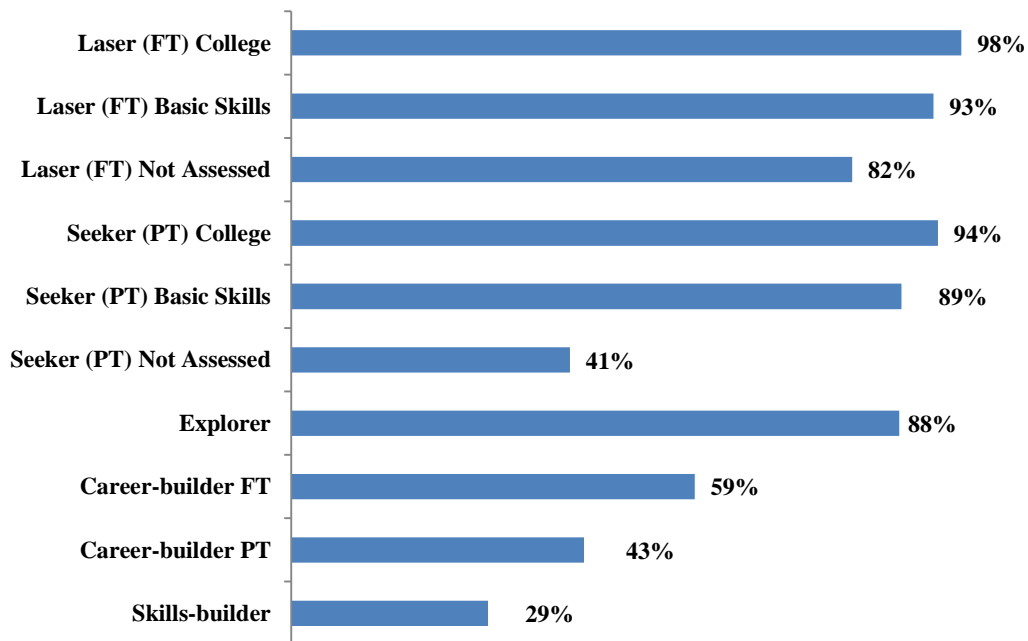
**SBCC Fall 2011 First-Time Students
Count and Percentage in each Educational Goal Group**



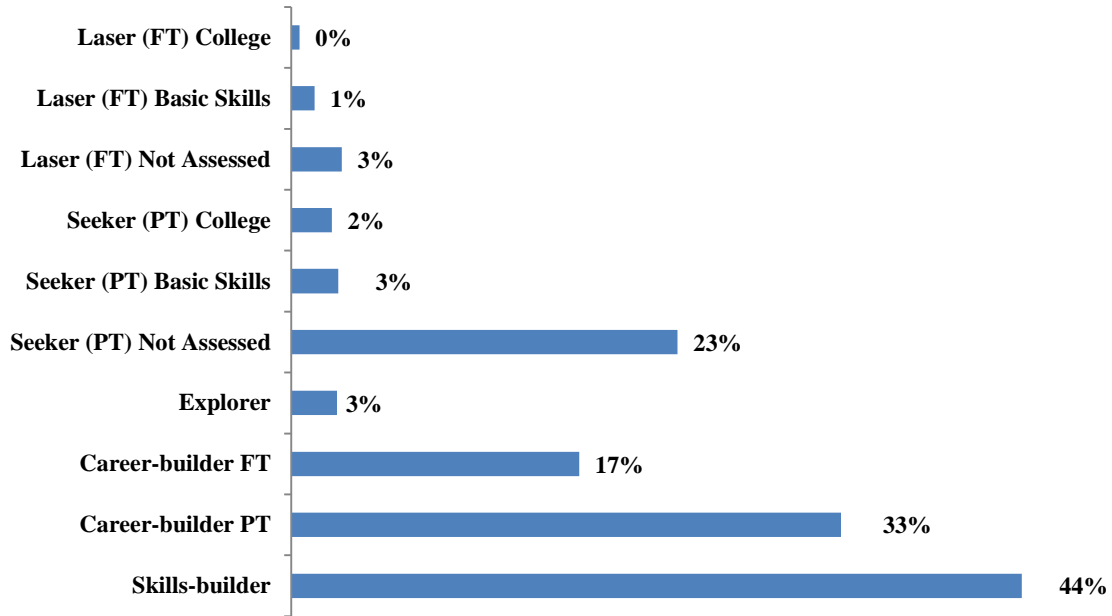
**SBCC Fall 2011 First-Time Students
Percentage in each Educational Goal Group by Ethnicity**



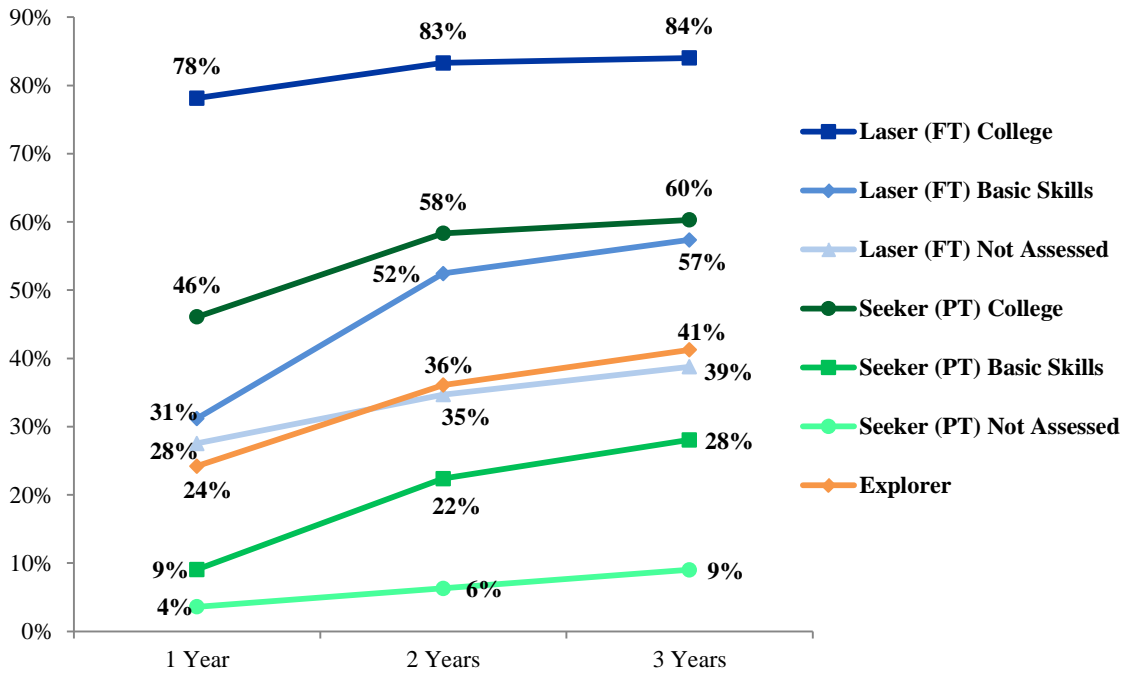
**SBCC Fall 2011 First-Time Students
Percentage Age 19 or Younger by Educational Goal Group**



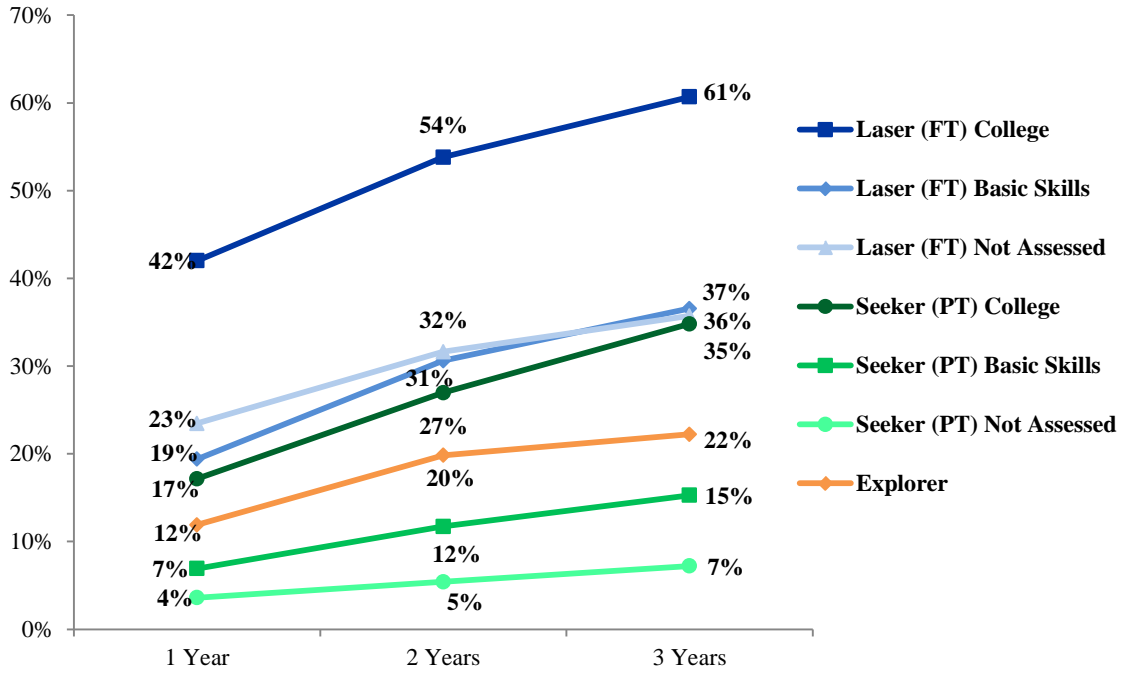
**SBCC Fall 2011 First-Time Students
Percentage Age 30 or Older by Educational Goal Group**



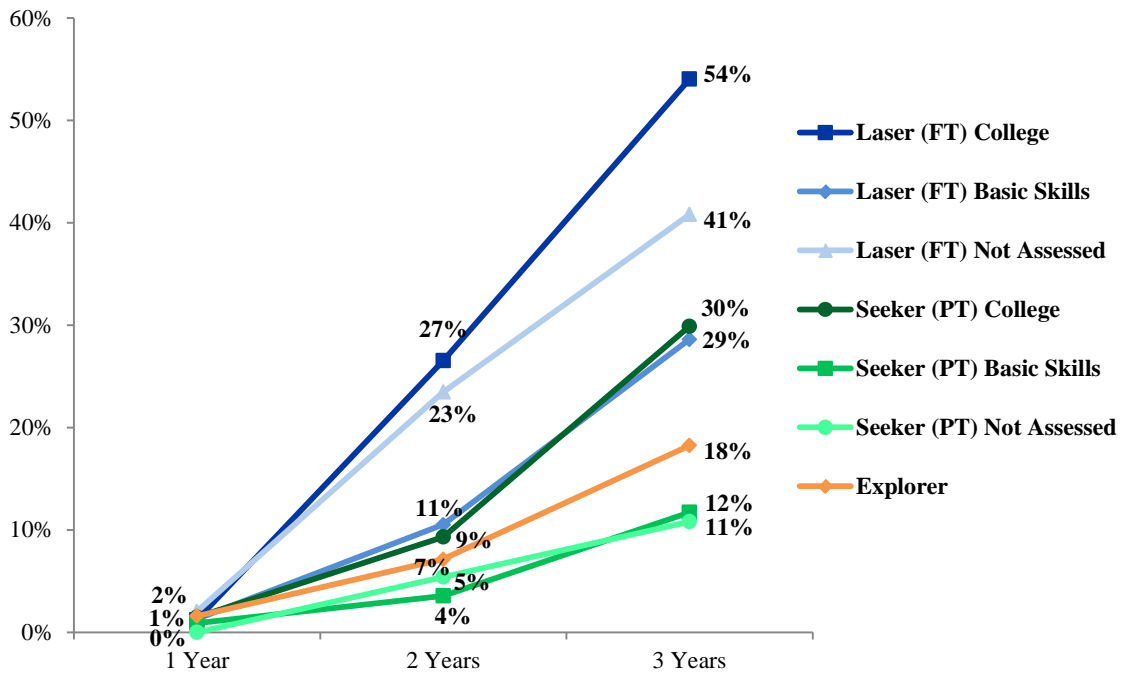
**SBCC Fall 2011 First-Time Students
Milestone: Completion of College English by Ed Goal Group by Years**



**SBCC Fall 2011 First-Time Students
Milestone: Completion of College Math by Ed Goal Group by Years**



**SBCC Fall 2011 First-Time Students
Milestone: Completion of Degree/Certificate or Transfer to 4-Year Institution
by Ed Goal Group by Years**



Recommendations

It may be helpful to identify which students fit into each of the ten educational goal groups at the start of each semester, in order to target the college's resources in terms of outreach, counseling, and other support services. The delivery of these support services could then be tailored to meet the different needs of the students in each of these groups. It would benefit students to receive support specific to their needs, which could help them to achieve their individual goals in a shorter time span.