

University of Guam
Division of English and Applied Linguistics
Developmental English Program

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From: Dr. Tom Tinkham, Chair, Developmental English Committee
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Subject: Initial English placement of recent UOG graduates

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The following is a brief “top down” longitudinal report of the initial English placements and, consequently, the first English courses taken years ago by recent graduates at UOG. More specifically, the report looks at the 353 UOG graduates who began here at the University (non-transfer students) and eventually graduated with Baccalaureate Degrees and the 51 non-transfer students who graduated from UOG with Master’s Degrees during the period starting in December, 2004, and concluding in December, 2005, and matches these graduates with their initial English placements: EN085, EN100, or EN110.

Baccalaureate Degree Graduates (12/05, 8/05, 5/05, 12/04)

Beginning in EN085 – 145 (41%)
Beginning in EN100 – 62 (18%)
Beginning in EN110 – 146 (41%)

Master’s Degree Graduates (12/05, 5/05, 12/04)

Beginning in EN085 – 21 (41%)
Beginning in EN100 – 4 (8%)
Beginning in EN110 – 26 (51%)

Notes

While the numbers and percentages of students who began their education at the University placed in EN110 should be accurate and, therefore, the total numbers and percentages of students entering placed in either EN085 or EN100 should also be accurate, the task of separating EN085 entrees from EN100 entrees has proven to be a bit daunting. The current system identifying EN085, EN100, and EN110 students was initiated in the 97/98 catalog, so the initial placements for all students starting at the University since then is clear. However, for the four years prior to that (93/97), the numbering of English courses was a bit different; for the three years prior to that (90/93), the numbering system was a bit different still; and for the years prior to '90, the

numbering system was quite different. Add to these differences the fact that the University's computerized record system only goes back as far as 1993 and records going back farther than that had to be retrieved by the people in Admissions and Records by other means (give them credit), and given the fact that a number of our graduates began their education at UOG back in the 1990s and even 1980s, and we get an idea of how difficult it is to get a precise division separating what we now call EN085 and EN100 students entering prior to 1997.

Consequently, my educated guess is that the number of students entering the University placed in EN085 should probably be somewhat lower than that reported, and the number of students entering UOG placed in EN100 should be somewhat higher. Nevertheless, the numbers and percentages reported should give us a good ball park idea of how many of our recent graduates began their education at UOG placed in Developmental English.

It should also be noted that during the period observed, a total of 408 students graduated with Baccalaureate Degrees and 75 students graduated with Master's Degrees. Of the 408 Baccalaureate Degree graduates, however, 55 entered the University as transfer students (and consequently were not placed in EN085, EN100, or EN110). Of the 71 Master's Degree graduates, 20 entered the University as transfer students. This would include students who received their Baccalaureate Degrees elsewhere. Transferring students who did not have to take English writing courses at UOG were not included in the reckoning of percentages reported above.

Conclusion

A significant, possibly even surprising percentage of the students who eventually graduate from both our undergraduate and graduate programs at UOG begin their education here placed in Developmental English. One might conclude, therefore, that the Developmental English Program must be doing a pretty good job of preparing Developmental English students for future success at the University.