

Multiple Paths Forward

Diversifying Mathematics as a Strategy for College Success

Policy changes by California State University, along with the new AB 705 law, give California community colleges greater ability to diversify math pathways and ensure that students learn the quantitative skills necessary for success.

In response to recommendations from mathematics associations and faculty organizations, and research that shows algebra-intensive math requirements can be a barrier to completion, California has joined more than 20 states in implementing multiple math pathways that align with students' programs of study and enable them to complete a non-remedial math course within a year.



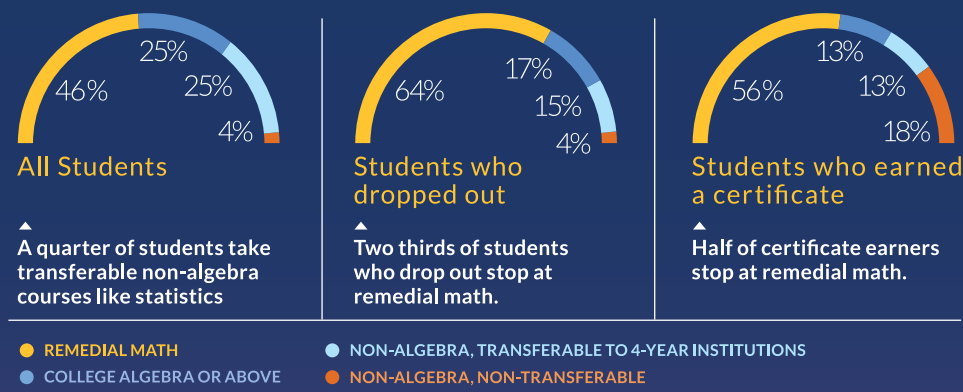
ACROSS THE US ABOUT
HALF THE STATES
ARE IMPLEMENTING
MULTIPLE MATH PATHWAYS

HERE ARE EXAMPLES OF HOW COLLEGES MIGHT ALIGN MAJORS AND PROGRAMS WITH ENTRY-LEVEL MATH COURSES

STATISTICS	Psychology	Social Sciences	Public & Protective Services	Library and Information Services	Media & Communication
QUANTITATIVE REASONING	Arts, Humanities & English	Applied Arts and Sciences	Hospitality & Culinary Arts	Agriculture & Natural Resources	Health Technologies
ALGEBRA-TO-CALCULUS	Biology	Engineering & Architecture	Math	Physical Sciences	Journalism
					Social Work

CALIFORNIA IS A LEADER IN OFFERING MULTIPLE PATHWAYS, with statistics a common alternative to algebra. But making intermediate algebra a pre-requisite for transferable math has limited the types of quantitative skills students learn. Further diversifying math pathways and aligning pre-requisites can help students leave college with the skills necessary for ongoing study, careers, and life.

Highest-level math course taken by California community college students



Percentages based on analysis of courses taken by 900,000 students over 7-year period