

# “Gatekeeper Courses”

## What is a Gatekeeper?

“Gatekeeper courses” are courses which prevent or delay students from completing their program. By definition, these are courses with relatively low success rates. Typically, “gatekeeper” also implies courses with high enrollments which are impacting a large number of students every year. Typical gatekeeper courses that are seen across multiple institutions are the required English, math, and science courses; including the developmental coursework).

## When to take Gatekeepers?

Looking at other Community Colleges in Maryland only two have requirements for taking gatekeepers within a designated timeframe:

- Carroll Community College:
  - Strongly recommends taking mathematics and English courses with first 12 hours
  - Requires that English and Mathematics sequences be **completed** by first 24 hours (noting that registration will be blocked and the student must meet with an advisor if this is not done)
  
- Cecil College:
  - Strongly recommends taking mathematic and English within first 12 hours.
  - All students must have **begun** their English and mathematics sequence within first 30 hours.

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## Gatekeepers at PGCC

For PGCC, looking at courses taken in the Fall 2009 and Spring 2010 with over 500 grades assigned across both semesters revealed success rates (either A,B,C and D, or A,B, and C) ranging from 42% to 86%. The courses that are typical gatekeepers at many institutions are in bold.

Course	ABCD	ABC	Grade Count
<b>DVM-0070</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>2298</b>
<b>DVM-0030</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>2638</b>
MAT-1350	49%	40%	1028
<b>DVE-0010</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>853</b>
<b>MAT-1040</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>2007</b>
<b>DVR-0050</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>787</b>
HST-1410	60%	51%	701
ART-1010	61%	52%	723
<b>BIO-1010</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>1975</b>
<b>DVR-0060</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>1717</b>
CIS-1010	66%	57%	2216
PSY-1010	67%	60%	2859
<b>CHM-1010</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>650</b>
PAS-1010	70%	63%	1659
<b>EGL-1010</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>3167</b>
BIO-2050	70%	63%	970
<b>EGL-1000</b>	<b>72%</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>1471</b>
<b>EGL-1020</b>	<b>72%</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>1787</b>
BIO-2010	72%	65%	573
PHL-1010	73%	67%	1271
NTR-1010	74%	66%	1495
CAP-1030	75%	68%	1756
PED-1030	75%	72%	989
HLE-1150	76%	63%	587
SPH-1010	77%	71%	1705
MGT-1010	78%	70%	703
ECN-1030	79%	74%	581
SOC-1010	80%	77%	1581
BIO-2060	81%	75%	619
SPH-1090	82%	78%	939
HST-2450	83%	75%	580
PSY-2070	86%	81%	691