

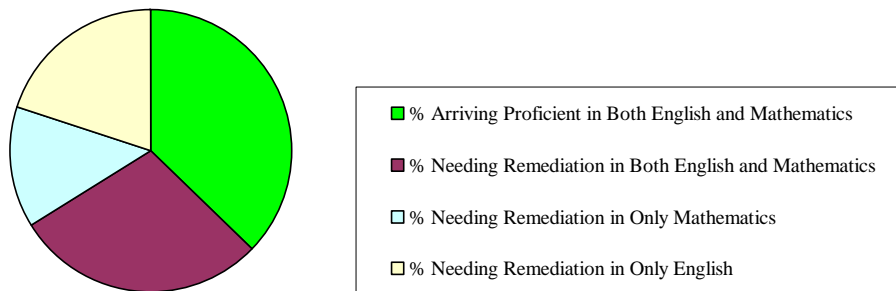
# Lower Division Roadmaps (LDRs)

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Addressing Item #7. Promulgation of Roadmaps to Degree in an Official, Centrally-Archived, Graphically Authoritative Format

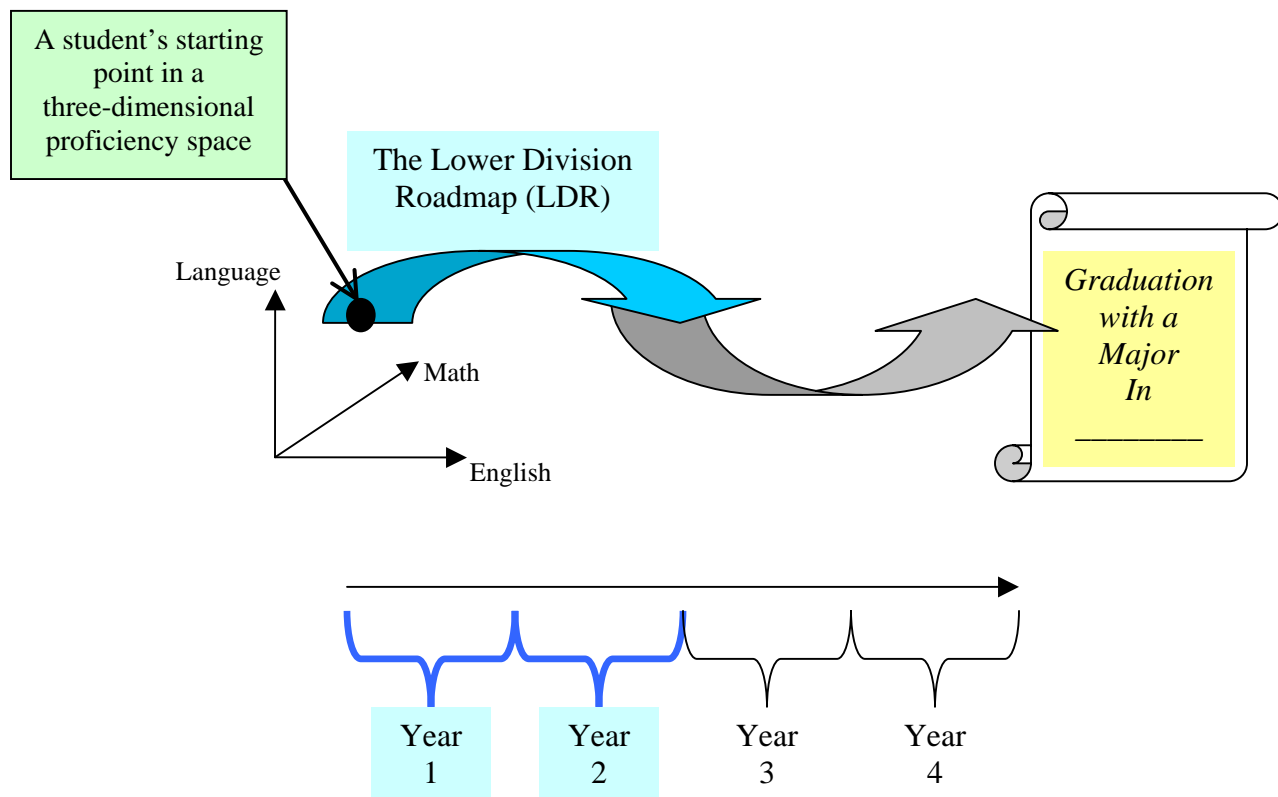
To be most useful, a roadmap has to begin with a student's starting academic "location." Many CSU campuses, San Marcos included, see wide variation in the proficiencies of incoming first-year students which would require those students (who arguably need the most guidance) to make their own adjustments if they were provided with a 'one-size-fits-all' roadmap.

Fall 2004 First-Time Freshmen at CSU San Marcos



To help *all* incoming first-year students develop a 'custom-fit' course of study, CSU San Marcos has developed an on-line atlas of specialized LDRs (<http://lynx.csusm.edu/roadmaps>) which take into account a student's starting location along three key "axes of preparedness:"

- English: three levels – having failed the EPT test, having cleared the EPT requirement without having earned AP credit, and having AP credit in English;
- Mathematics: four levels (or, for majors requiring calculus, five levels) – needing to enroll in Pre-Algebra, Beginning Algebra, an Intermediate Algebra-level course, or having cleared the ELM requirement; and
- Language Other Than English (third-semester level competency is a campus-specific graduation requirement): four levels – students enter either ready to take a first-semester, second-semester, or third-semester level course, or able to meet the requirement without taking a course.



There are, in principle,  $3 \times 4 \times 4 = 48$  lower division roadmaps for each non-calculus-requiring major (option), and  $3 \times 5 \times 4 = 60$  maps for calculus-requiring majors. First Year Programs has developed principles to guide the construction of roadmaps and protocols for working with departments to build roadmaps – currently in use – that sensibly combine lower-division General Education and campus-specific requirements with Preparation for the Major.

The principles guiding construction of the road maps include:

- Unit loads of at least 13 units in every semester, but not more than 15 units in the first semester of the freshman year;
- Immediate enrollment in any necessary remediation courses/sequences;
- Continued enrollment in a mathematics/quantitative reasoning course (Area B4) followed by science courses (Areas B1 and B2) upon completion of any mathematics remediation;
- Continued enrollment in language courses for students who enter with some language proficiency but who have not yet satisfied the campus Language Other Than English Requirement;
- Early completion of basic skills (Area A) courses and a college success course (Area E), and purposeful ordering of these courses;
- An introductory course in the major as soon as possible;
- Major-specific recommendations – where applicable – for the courses to be used in fulfilling Lower-Division General Education requirements;
- Advising students who earn too few baccalaureate-level units (because they've had to take remedial math courses that don't count toward the 120 unit graduation requirement) to consider taking summer classes;
- Only specifying courses in the semesters that they are offered; and
- Working with departmental representatives to construct the roadmaps and having the maps approved by the departments!