

# An Arts Education... Who Needs It?

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## Education in Today's Society

- No Child Left Behind Act uses standardized testing to evaluate proficiency in reading and math
- Implementation of this act has led to
  - Increased instruction time for reading and math
  - Decrease in funding for arts programs
- Controversy among parents, students, and faculty has arisen

## Our Research Question

**Can a correlation be detected between students who attended high school where an arts education was a mandatory curriculum requirement and students who surpassed the incoming freshman math and English requirements at The University of Maryland?**

## Defining Our Research

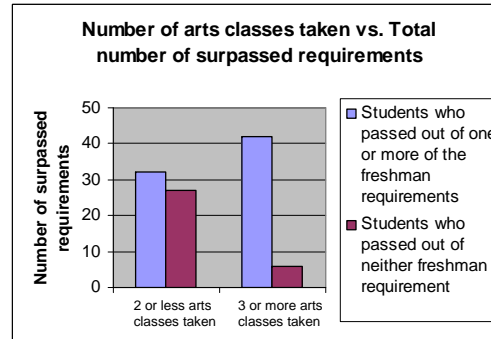
- All incoming freshmen at the University of Maryland must take both a fundamental math and English requirement.
- Students are exempt from these requirements if they receive
  - Score of 670 or higher on SAT verbal
  - Score of 600 or higher on SAT math
- For our research an arts class is defined as any of the following
  - Physical education, music, dance, art, photography, ceramics/pottery, theatre, technical education, and home economics

## Methodology

- Survey administered online and on paper
- Asked questions regarding
  - Surpassing incoming freshman requirements
  - High school GPA
  - Number and type of arts classes taken
  - Progression beyond entry-level arts courses
  - AP classes taken

## Data Analysis

- Students who took 3 or more arts classes passed the entrance requirements with more frequency than those who took 2 or less arts classes
- Students who took 3 or more arts classes took more AP classes than those who took 2 or less arts classes
- Results pertaining to GPA and Honor Roll were too varied for adequate analyzing



## Conclusions

- A strong correlation exists between the students who had the greatest diversity of arts classes as part of the curriculum and those who passed the freshman math and English requirements
- A strong correlation exists between students who took a higher number of arts classes and those who passed the freshman math and English requirements
- A strong correlation exists between the students who took a higher number of arts classes and those who took a higher number of AP classes

## Application

- This study does not show causation but shows a strong correlation between taking more arts classes and high academic achievement
- This supports the notion that arts are important and play a role in developing skills in math and English
- Decreasing of arts curriculums in high schools may not increase proficiency in math and English
- Arts are a vital part of education

