



NORTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM
H. Martin Lancaster, President

August 24, 2006

MEMORANDUM

TO: Presidents
Chief Academic Officers
Student Development Administrators

FROM: H. Martin Lancaster

SUBJECT: Placement Testing Policy

I am pleased to inform you that on August 18, 2006, the State Board of Community Colleges adopted a revised Placement Testing Policy, which included placement test cut scores to establish proficiency levels for students entering college level courses.

This policy becomes effective fall semester 2007 for all students enrolling in curriculum level courses with a developmental prerequisite. All colleges in the North Carolina Community College System will use the validated test scores in the attached table to demonstrate student proficiency and college readiness in reading, writing, and mathematics.

If you have specific questions regarding the attached Placement Test Policy, please contact Wanda White, Director of Student Development Services at 919-807-7104 or by email at whitew@nccommunitycolleges.edu.

cc: Dr. Delores A. Parker
Mr. Ken Whitehurst
Dr. Edith Lang
Ms. Wanda White

Attachment

CC06-190
Email

Validation of Placement Test Scores Recommendation North Carolina Community College System

Effective July 1, 1993, the NC General Assembly enacted a special provision entitled "Remediation Measures" in SL 1993-321, Section 108 that reads:

REMEDICATION MEASURES

- Sect. 108 (a) The State Board of Community Colleges shall study the different tests
By colleges to place students in developmental courses. This study shall determine appropriate tests and proficiency levels to be used in selecting and placing students in developmental courses.
- (b) The State Board shall report its finds to the General Assembly by May 1, 1994.

The State Board of Community Colleges adopted policies in 1994 and 1999 to carry out this special provision.

Pursuant to item #6 of the Placement Testing Guidelines adopted by the State Board of Community Colleges on October 15, 1999, all colleges within the NC Community College System provided to the College Board and/or the American College Testing Services information for the validation of ASSET, COMPASS and Accuplacer (including CPT and COMPANION) placement tests scores. Such information included but was not limited to student identification number, local score tables, grades of courses, grade point averages and all data that was deemed essential to the validation of placement test scores. All data was transmitted in electronic formats as agreed to by the Statewide Placement Testing Committee and the tests publishers. The data collected was from a two year period which included Fall 2001 through 2003

The Placement Testing committee met on several occasions to review the validation data and made the final recommendations for the placement test cut scores. This information was shared on the NCCCS website, in various focus group meetings, Instructional Administrators' conference, Student Development Administrators' conference and the Presidents' Association meetings. Final recommendations were submitted to the Presidents' Association for review and voting. The attached Placement Test Scores are the result of a review of the Placement Testing committee recommendations by Community College presidents. Community Colleges using ASSET and COMPASS voted overwhelmingly to continue to use the same Placement Test scores as used in 1999. While colleges using Accuplacer made changes in the cut score in the area of mathematics.

The State Board is requested to adopt the placement testing policy, including placement test scores to establish proficiency levels for students entering college level courses.

Placement Testing Policy

1. Mandatory Testing and Placement

Placement testing shall be mandatory for all students taking curriculum level courses with a developmental prerequisite. All colleges should have written policies governing placement-testing practices.

2. Approved Placement Tests

Colleges must use one or more of the following approved placement tests: ASSET, COMPASS, CPT, and/or Accuplacer. Other tests proposed for use in placement testing must be approved by the Placement Testing Committee prior to use.

3. Use of Placement Tests

Placement tests are not admissions tests and should be used only in the manner for which the publisher intended them, to place students in appropriate courses. The Code of Fair Testing Practices in Education states, "Avoid using tests for purposes not specifically recommended by the test developer unless evidence is obtained to support the intended use."

4. Placement Test Waivers

Colleges may waive the requirement for a placement test when students demonstrate proficiency in prerequisite skills using ACT scores, SAT scores, appropriate college transfer courses or courses including developmental studies. All colleges should include policies on placement test waivers in their written policies governing placement testing practices.

5. Re-testing for Placement

Colleges should allow re-testing of students and include re-testing guidelines in the written policies governing placement testing practices.

6. Required Placement Test Scores

Effective fall semester 2007, all colleges in the North Carolina Community College System (NCCCS) shall use the validated tests scores in the attached table to demonstrate student proficiency and college readiness in reading, writing and mathematics. These scores shall be transferable among the 58 community colleges.

7. Developmental Education

The State Board of Community Colleges accepts as background the recommendations of the Developmental Education High Performing Task Force (March 1996) and the Endorsements of the Developmental Education Project (June 1996).

8. Placement Testing Committee

The Placement Testing Committee is established and shall be composed of eleven (11) members appointed by the NCCCS Vice President for Academic and Student Services. The committee shall consist of (4) developmental education faculty members, four (4) general education faculty members, one (1) student services professional staff member, two (2) instructional administrators and three (3) ex officio system office staff from the division of Academic and Student Services.

The NCCCS Vice President for Academic and Student Services shall initially appoint five (5) members for a one-year term and six (6) members for a two-year term. Thereafter, all members shall serve two-year terms and may be re-appointed.

The Placement Testing committee shall work with test publishers and the fifty-eight community colleges to conduct validation of test scores every (3) years beginning July 1, 2009.

The Placement Testing committee shall meet at least twice annually to review placement testing policy, carry out provisions specified in this policy and make recommendations to the State Board for changes as needed.

NCCCS Placement Test Scores

Entry-level CCL Course	CCL Prerequisite	or	ASSET Scale Score	COMPASS Score	CPT (Accuplacer) Raw Score
MAT 101	MAT 060		41 Numerical Skills	47 Pre-algebra	55 Arithmetic
MAT 110, 115, 120, 121, 140	MAT 070*		41 Numerical Skills and 41 Elementary Algebra	47 Pre-algebra and 46 Algebra	55 Arithmetic and 55 Elementary Algebra
MAT 141, 145, 151, 155, 161, 171	MAT 080/090*		41 Numerical Skills and 41 Intermediate Algebra	47 Pre-algebra and 66 Algebra	55 Arithmetic and 75 Elementary Algebra
ENG 110, 111	ENG 090/095 and RED 090/ENG 095		41 Writing and 41 Reading	70 Writing and 81 Reading	86 Sentence Skills and 80 Reading Comprehension

*Because MAT 060 is a prerequisite of MAT 070, 080 (sequential) and 090, arithmetic competencies must also be demonstrated for all courses with a MAT 070, 080, or 090 prerequisite. **Adopted by SBCC 8/18/06**