



Basic Skills Plus Assessment and Data Questions

College and Career Readiness

August 10, 2015

BSKPL Flag

- **Might the BSKPL flag in XLGA need to be more sophisticated: indicate a date range or ranges to prevent accounting errors?**
- **Those flags are the starting point. Final analysis is done by Dr. Kristen Corbell to determine if a student actually met the requirements. (dual enrolled or co-enrollment, etc.) Alan/Diane are there any plans to expand the utility of the XLGA flag?**

Checking the BSKPL Flag

- Is it now necessary to manually check every BSKPL student in XLGA from the previous year and remove the flag in the new year if they are still CCR but no longer BSKPL?
- Yes, you need to be checking on those tags for students. If they don't meet the requirements they are excluded in final analyses, but checking helps to ensure that students are correctly accounted for in the data.

Assessment Placement Requirement

- **Does the student need an Adult Secondary Education (ASE) low or high placement to participate in Basic Skills PLUS?**
- **Yes, either placement is acceptable for BS+. Students are not eligible for Basic Skills Plus if their assessment score is below the ASE level.**

Determine Eligibility in Basic Skills PLUS

- Can we determine eligibility by the reading placement score only? In other words, if they score 9th grade or higher would they be eligible for Basic Skills PLUS?
- Placement is determined by the lowest score. You can choose to give only Reading and the placement would be based on that if they score Adult Secondary Education level or higher, but if you give multiple tests then the placement is based off of the lowest score from all tests given.

Update on Changes in Process for Implementing Basic Skills PLUS Career Pathways

- We would love to get a good understanding of how the new process works for implementing Basic Skills PLUS pathways since the change in requirements.
- There have not been any changes in the requirements for Basic Skills PLUS.
- Colleges must be approved by the NC State Board to offer Basic Skills PLUS.

Process for Implementing Basic Skills PLUS Career Pathways (effective July 1, 2015)

1. Colleges no longer need to submit a completed template and career pathway map to the System Office to receive approval of a new career pathway.
2. Colleges are strongly encouraged to use the template and career pathway map while planning new career pathways.
3. Colleges should notify the System Office when a new career pathway is being implemented or when a career pathway is no longer going to be offered.
4. Colleges that plan to stop offering a pathway or to offer a new career pathway beginning fall 2015, should notify College and Career Readiness by sending an email to adulthoodliteracy@nccommunitycolleges.edu. Identify in the email the new career pathway using the program title and code (curriculum) or course title and ID Number (continuing education) as listed in the Combined Course Library.

Basic Skills PLUS Requirements

- Approval by NC State Board.
- Alignment with local workforce demand and industry sectors.
- Use of adult education content standards.
- Student placement on the adult secondary education functional level until students complete their high school diploma or high school equivalency credential.
- Waivers associated with a Basic Skills Plus pathway may not exceed 12 semester hours for curriculum courses, 96 hours for continuing education (CE) courses, or a single CE course that is longer than 96 hours without written approval from the System Office.
- Co-enrollment in Basic Skills and occupational courses.
- Integrated instruction in Basic Skills and occupational courses.
- Comprehensive student support.

BSKP: 12/96 Requirement

- Given the new process, where are we with the 12/96 hour limits for pathways?
- No change. Waivers associated with a Basic Skills Plus pathway may not exceed 12 semester hours for curriculum courses, 96 hours for continuing education (CE) courses, or a single CE course that is longer than 96 hours without written approval from the System Office.

BSKP: 12/96 Requirement

- Just a clarification- The student can do 12 credits or 96 hours for Basic Skills plus?
- No change. Waivers associated with a Basic Skills Plus pathway may not exceed 12 semester hours for curriculum courses, 96 hours for continuing education (CE) courses, or a single CE course that is longer than 96 hours without written approval from the System Office.

Local Policy and Basic Skills PLUS

- One concern I have is that many of the programs I am interested in require a HS credential **BEFORE** accepting our students, whereas BSP is set up for students to work on their technical component and HS credential simultaneously...would love any suggestions!

- This is most likely a local requirement set by perhaps your internal partners (continuing education or curriculum) at your college. This is not a state policy.

Policies that may create barriers for our students should be discussed with all partners with the goal of changing or removing policies that negatively impact adult education students.

Implementation teams, regular communication, use of data are strategies that can be used to help partners understand your instructional and program support strategies for students.

How Are Basic Skills PLUS students accounted for?

- From our Data Specialist: How are BS PLUS students counted from year to year (calendar or program year) to help me to determine when to add or to remove BS PLUS from the Student Data field in XLGA for students. Is there overlap?
- All data for basic skills are counted on a Program Year basis. FTE is the only thing that does not fit within the Program Year.



How Soon Can We Start Offering New Career Pathways-Basic Skills PLUS?

- Now that we don't submit the template seeking permission to offer new pathways, how quickly will we be permitted to start new offerings once we submit our email?
- As soon as your team is ready to implement the new career pathway with notification to the System Office. Going forward, colleges that are approved for Basic Skills PLUS do not need to submit pathways for approval, they just need to notify us.
- Colleges that plan to offer a new career pathway or discontinue a career pathway beginning fall 2015, should notify College and Career Readiness by sending an email to adulthoodliteracy@nccommunitycolleges.edu . Identify in the email the new career pathway using the program title and code (curriculum) or course title and ID Number (continuing education) as listed in the Combined Course Library.

Retaking Occupational Classes and Receiving Waivers

- If a student goes through a BSKP offering but fails the test associated with the credential and needs to retake the OE class, can we still waive the fee if they meet BSKP eligibility requirements.
- This is the policy and there has been no change: Waivers associated with a Basic Skills Plus pathway may not exceed 12 semester hours for curriculum courses, 96 hours for continuing education (CE) courses, or a single CE course that is longer than 96 hours without written approval from the System Office.
- Alan and Diane can we talk about this one. I can see and have seen colleges having local policies to address this question. Can we talk about our response on Monday?

Making Course Revisions Within an Approved Career Pathway

- **Are we able to delete a Basic Skills course from an approved pathway if it's deemed no longer of value to the students?**
- **Yes. However, there should always be documentation for the courses, instructional, program and student support strategies, etc. to be used in a career pathway.**

When it is necessary to change the courses that are offered in a pathway, the provider organization should make sure the changes are consistent with the approved programs of study and meet the expectations of internal and external partners.

The provider does not need to notify the System Office when a specific course is deleted from a pathway.

ABE Student Engagement

- How are colleges engaging ABE students?
- This information was covered recently during other webinars related to program strategies and instruction, the Basic Skills Directors' Institute, Performance Summit, etc.

Suggest that this question be addressed directly to the following College and Career Readiness staff for guidance and technical assistance: Cassandra Atkinson, Karen Brown, Trudie Hughes.

Creating Internal Partnerships

- **What strategies are being used to create internal partnerships?**
- **This information was covered recently during other webinars related to program strategies and instruction, the Basic Skills Directors' Institute, Performance Summit, etc.**

Suggest that this question be addressed directly to the following College and Career Readiness staff for guidance and technical assistance: Cassandra Atkinson, Karen Brown, Trudie Hughes.

Student Attendance

- How do you handle a student who is attending BSP pathway classes but not regular GED classes?
- This question is not related to data or assessment directly. It appears to be related to policy or practice according to the requirements of the local provider. We suggest that this specific situation be discussed within the local implementation team to identify ways of resolving. Basic Skills PLUS courses should offer integrated instruction. Suggest that they talk with Cassandra Atkinson directly for technical assistance.

Changing the Placement Score

- Can we amend a placement score for a particular pathway once it has been established?
- Yes. However, there should always be documentation for the courses, instructional, program and student support strategies, etc. to be used in a career pathway.

For Basic Skills PLUS, students must be assessed at the Adult Secondary Education (ASE) level (low or high). If it is necessary to change a placement score in a pathway, the provider organization should make sure the changes are consistent with the approved programs of study and meet the expectations of internal and external partners.

The provider does not need to notify the System Office when a placement score is amended for a Basic Skills PLUS pathway, but placement must be at the ASE level.

Basic Skills PLUS Enrollment Points

- Once the BS+ class starts....all students are enrolled in the Healthcare Academy....a new student wants to join BS+ and would miss this component...Will the student be allowed to enroll in the BS+ and go back and pick up the Healthcare Academy component after completing the others and can they be completed in any order?
- This is not a state policy. This depends on the policies and requirements set locally by the provider. Also depends on how flexible your program is for including students.

Suggest that you contact Cassandra Atkinson to discuss directly.

Measuring Advancement For Adult Secondary Education High Level Students

- **If a Basic Skills Plus student starts a pathway and is already at the Adult Secondary High level in everything, how can our program report growth as this student progresses through curriculum/con ed classes?**
- **What are you reporting growth for? NRS growth is not reported since they are already at the ASEH level.**

Use of Cohorts for Basic Skills PLUS

- **Is every Basic Skills Plus student automatically pulled into the cohort?**
- **What cohort does this refer to?**
- **As far as the overall BS+ count, they are matched to ensure there was dual enrollment during the current program year. Then they are counted in the final totals.**

Coding Students in Colleague

- What are the specific things we need to do in Colleague to make sure that a student is recognized as a Basic Skills Plus student?
- Make sure the BS+ tag is marked. Make sure that all curriculum or continuing classes are being entered.
- Attend CIS Roundtable sessions (continuing education and curriculum) with Data Entry Staff from your organization to ensure you are using the correct entry procedures for Basic Skills PLUS are being followed.

Which TABE Scores Are Used?

- Do I only count TABE scores that are within the program year?
- The system only counts assessment scores from the program year and 90 days back. All placement follows the 90 day rule and standard placement rules.

Placement Score For the Year

- Can I take the highest achieved score in a subject area even if it is not the most recent score?
- You base the level at the start of the program year off of the placement from Colleague. It is the lowest of all placement scores for the year.

Reporting Student Outcomes

- Do we need to keep documentation of scores, achievement, milestones, momentum points, hours, etc.?
- Yes. These data/information are essential for alignment with the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, NCWorks, reporting to internal and external partners, students, community, and accountability.





TITLE II: ADULT EDUCATION AND FAMILY LITERACY ACT

State Leadership Activities

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Any other Questions?

