

**STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES
Career and College Promise Operating Procedures Update
2015 PSAT College Readiness Benchmarks**

The Career and College Promise Operating Procedures define the eligibility requirements for students, the process for filing programs of study, student coding procedures, and program coding procedures. An update has been made to include the 2015 PSAT college readiness benchmarks released by College Board. The following attachment includes the 2015 PSAT college readiness benchmarks released by College Board.

Background: Session Law 2011-145, the Appropriations Act of 2011, authorized the State Board of Education and the State Board of Community Colleges to establish the Career and College Promise program, effective January 1, 2012. Career and College Promise provides seamless dual enrollment educational opportunities for eligible North Carolina high school students in order to accelerate completion of college certificates, diplomas, and associate degrees that lead to college transfer or provide entry-level job skills. The three pathways include:

1. College Transfer Pathways (CTP) requires the completion of at least 30 semester hours of transfer courses including English and mathematics.
2. Career and Technical Education Pathways (CTE) lead to a certificate or diploma aligned with a high school career cluster.
3. Cooperative Innovative High School Programs (CIHSP) are located on college campuses (unless a waiver was provided) and provide opportunities for students to complete an associate degree program or earn up to two years of college credit within five years. Examples include Early and Middle College High Schools.

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College Readiness* Benchmarks on Approved Diagnostic Assessment Tests

Test	PLAN**	PSAT 2014 and earlier**	PSAT 2015 and future**	Asset (NCCCS Cut Score)	COMPASS (NCCCS Cut Score)	Accuplacer (NCCCS Cut Score)	NC DAP (NCCCS Cut Score)
English	15	45	26	41 Writing	70 Writing	86 Sentence Skills	Composite score of 151 or higher ***
Reading	18	47	26	41 Reading	81 Reading	80 Reading	
Mathematics	19	47	24.5	41 Numerical Skills and 41 Int. Algebra	47 Pre-Algebra and 66 Algebra	55 Arithmetic and 75 Elem. Algebra	7 on each assessment for DMA 010 thru 060

In addition to the diagnostic assessments, colleges may use the following SAT and ACT scores recommended by the testing companies as benchmarks for college readiness:*

SAT		ACT	
English	500	English	18
Critical Reading	500	Reading	22
Mathematics	500	Mathematics	22

*To be eligible for enrollment in a College Transfer Pathway, students must demonstrate college readiness in English, reading, and mathematics on an approved test or tests. Eligibility may be demonstrated by achieving the required scores on a single test or by combining test scores from any of the approved assessments. For example, a student may combine a 19 on PLAN math with an 86 and an 80 on Accuplacer sentence skills and reading to demonstrate college readiness.

**PLAN and PSAT scores recommended by ACT and College Board as indicators of college readiness.

***The Reading and English part of the NC DAP is an integrated assessment of reading and English skills; meeting the composite cut score for placement into ENG 111 is one way to demonstrate college readiness in order to participate in the College Transfer Pathway.