

STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES
Permanent Cut Scores for North Carolina Diagnostic Assessment and Placement
(NC DAP) Reading & English Test

Background:

NCCCS contracted with the College Board in 2012 to create the NC Diagnostic Assessment and Placement (NC DAP) Test to serve as an improved placement tool. This effort falls under the state's *Developmental Education Initiative* which focuses on increasing the number of students who successfully complete college level coursework. The NC DAP directly aligns with new developmental courses in the state's Combined Course Library, curricula that were created by faculty panels from across the state during 2011-12. The new developmental courses are shorter and more flexible than previous long sequences of courses through which few students successfully persisted. The goal is that streamlined courses paired with new placement tools will promote student acceleration toward credit-bearing college level courses and into programs of study.

In March 2013, the State Board of Community Colleges approved Testing Policies for the North Carolina Diagnostic Assessment and Placement (NC DAP) Test. These policies included a statewide NC DAP Math cut-score to indicate placement into or out of each of the eight new one-credit developmental math modules. In May 2013 and January 2014 the State Board approved revisions to cut-score and placement policies for the Math portion of the NC DAP.

The Reading & English portion of the NC DAP was released by College Board in April 2014. The test contains three components – reading comprehension, revising/editing writing, and an essay. A composite score will place students into Developmental Reading & English (DRE) or curriculum English courses.

Eight colleges began pilot testing the Reading & English part of the NC DAP in April 2014 in order to generate preliminary test data to help set a cut score. In May, 2014, the State Board of Community Colleges approved temporary cut scores for the NC DAP Reading & English tests.

Request:

We request the State Board make the approved temporary cut scores for the Reading & English portion of the NC DAP permanent.

Course Placement	Placement Score Ranges	Proposed Permanent Cut Scores	Placement Rate Distribution
Basic Skills	100 to 103	103	1%
DRE 096	104 to 116	116	3%
DRE 097	117 to 135	135	15%
DRE 098	136 to 150	150	31%
ENG 111	151 or higher	151 or higher	49%

A data set comprised of approximately 5000 test scores from nine colleges using the Reading & English NC DAP test was analyzed. The research shows the temporary cut scores are dependable for placement outcomes.

Upon State Board approval, NCCCS colleges may use the cut scores to place students enrolling in spring 2015. The permanent cut scores will be required for students enrolling after spring 2015.

Colleges are required to implement the Reading & English NC DAP test in March 2015. In order for all colleges to transition to the new assessment, colleges may continue to use previously-approved ACCUPLACER or COMPASS assessments for spring 2015 placement into DRE courses.

Future:

As we move forward, College Board will perform validity studies that examine cut scores and student outcomes to determine if adjustments are needed for placement.

Contact:

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DRAFT

NC Developmental Reading & English (DRE) Placement Score Report
April – September 5, 2014

This report shows scores and placement outcomes for students who have completed the NC-DAP DRE placement assessments from April – September 5, 2014. Results presented are from a total of 4999 completed test on all three component: Reading, Revising and Editing Writing and Write placer from selected NC Community Colleges currently administering the new NC-DAP DRE. The composite score was computed using the full transformation provided by College Board ($Composite = .5 * Reading + .2 * Writing + (4.833 * raw + 24.644)$). Placement into various DRE levels were mapped using the temporary NC-DAP DRE composite cut scores approved in May 2014¹.

Table 1

NC DRE Students Test Score by College April- September 5, 2014

	Students with Scores on all three Components	Percent	Mean Composite Score	STD Composite Score
Caldwell CC & TI	455	9%	152	14.8
Cent Piedmont CC	3334	67%	148	17.8
College of The Albermarle	19	0%	147	10.0
Fayetteville Technical CC	20	0%	146	11.4
Halifax CC	227	5%	141	15.5
Montgomery CC	55	1%	149	15.6
Vance-Granville CC	458	9%	148	15.5
Wake Technical CC	6	0%	147	32.8
Western Piedmont CC	425	9%	151	15.1
All	4999	100%	148	17.1

Table 2

Descriptive Statistics from NC-DAP DRE Composite Scores April - September 5, 2014

NC DAP Component	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	STD	50th Percentile	75th Percentile	90th Percentile	95th Percentile
Composite	4999	95	203	148	17.1	150	160	169	174

Table 3

Descriptive Statistics for Write Placer Scores by Placement Type April – September 5, 2014

Placement Type	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	STD	50th Percentile	75th Percentile	90th Percentile	95th Percentile
Credit English	2441	1	8	5	0.9	5	5	6	6
Developmental English	2558	0	6	3	1.3	4	4	5	5

¹ See the memo

Figure 1

DRE Placement Rate April - September 2014 based on Temporary Approved Cut Scores

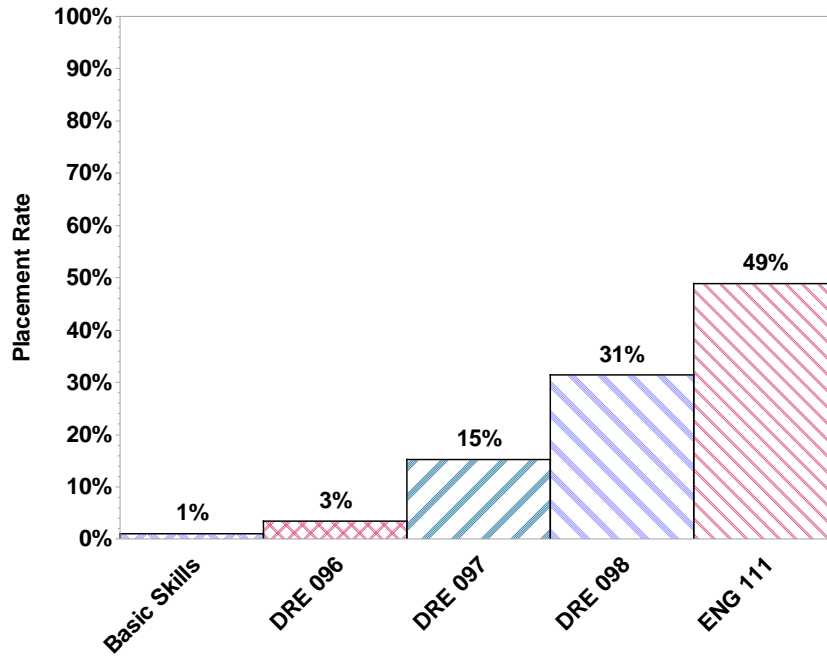


Figure 2

Distribution of NC-DRE Placement Composite Scores April - September 2014

