

STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Technical Corrections to Multiple Measures for Placement Policy

**Request:**

In February 2013 the State Board approved a Multiple Measures for Placement Policy to use recent High School Transcript GPA and/or Standardized Test Scores for placement. We request the following technical corrections to the policy:

1. *Revise ACT Reading score to 22.* This is the new score that ACT recently adopted to indicate College Readiness.
2. *Identify math courses that fulfill the "4<sup>th</sup> Math" beyond Algebra II criterion.* Under the policy high school students must take 4 math courses, including Algebra II, and attain the GPA threshold to be exempt from placement testing. Previously the policy indicated that a student's FRC (Future Ready Core) code could be used to signify that the four Math courses had been taken; however, the NC Department of Public Instruction will not be assigning FRC codes beginning with Spring 2014 graduates. Therefore, the System Office has worked with DPI to identify the specific math courses that are eligible in order for a student to fall under this policy. The eligible math courses are listed on NCCCS document: *Eligible 4<sup>th</sup> High School Math Courses for Multiple Measures Placement*. Programming is underway to include a 4th math enrollment indicator in the high school electronic transcript data download.
3. *Update language pertaining to the placement assessments eligible for use in North Carolina community colleges.*
4. *Allow colleges to set local policies for determining requirements for students to take supplemental lab courses to support learning success in Math and English.*

**Contact Person:**

Cynthia Liston

Assoc. Vice President for Policy Research & Special Projects

919.807.7108

[listonc@nccommunitycolleges.edu](mailto:listonc@nccommunitycolleges.edu)

**NCCCS Policy Using High School Transcript GPA and/or Standardized Test Scores for Placement  
(Multiple Measures for Placement)**

The proposed Multiple Measures for Placement Policy establishes a hierarchy of measures that colleges will use to determine students' readiness for college-level courses:

- (1) A recent high school graduate who meets the specified GPA benchmark will be exempt from diagnostic placement testing and will be considered "college-ready" for gateway math and English courses.



- (2) If a recent high school graduate does not meet the GPA benchmark, the college will use specified ACT or SAT subject area test scores to determine placement.



- (3) If a recent high school graduate does not meet the GPA threshold or have college-ready ACT or SAT scores, the college will administer the diagnostic placement test to determine placement.



- (4) If an applicant does not have a recent high school transcript or ACT or SAT scores, the college will administer the diagnostic placement test to determine placement.

**Multiple Measures for Placement Policy**

Unweighted GPA = or >2.6 And FRC Code 1, 2, 3, or 4 <u>Four High School Math Courses*</u>	Student is college ready for any gateway math course and any course that has a DMA prerequisite. Colleges may require students with a GPA <3.0 enrolling in MAT 151, 155, 161, or 171 to take a supplemental math lab as a co-requisite, based on college policies.
Unweighted GPA = or > 2.6 And FRC Code 1, 2, 3, or 4 <u>Four High School Math Courses*</u>	Student is college ready for any English course up to and including English 111 and any course that has a DRE prerequisite. Colleges may require students with a GPA < 3.0 enrolling in ENG 110 and ENG 111 to take a supplemental English composition lab as a co-requisite, based on college policies.
Unweighted GPA <2.6	College will evaluate subject-area ACT or SAT scores to determine if student is college ready in math and English using the following scores (based on national and state validation studies): <u>English:</u> ACT Reading 2022 <b>OR</b> ACT English 18 SAT Writing 500 <b>OR</b> SAT Critical Reading 500 <u>Math:</u> ACT Math 22 SAT Math 500
Unweighted GPA <2.6 and subject-area score(s) below college ready	Student will take subject-area diagnostic State Board-approved assessment(s) to determine placement. (Colleges will continue to use Accuplacer, Asset or COMPASS until NC's custom diagnostic assessment is fully implemented.)
Students without a recent transcript GPA or without ACT or SAT scores	Student will take subject-area diagnostic State Board-approved assessment(s) to determine placement. (Colleges will continue to use Accuplacer, Asset or COMPASS until NC's custom diagnostic assessment is fully implemented.)

1. This policy is effective upon approval by the State Board of Community Colleges for students enrolling in Fall semester 2013. Colleges have up to two years to implement the policy; all colleges must implement the placement policy by Fall semester 2015.
2. This policy applies to an individual who has an official transcript grade point average (GPA) from a high school that is legally authorized to operate in North Carolina and who graduated from that high school within five years of college enrollment.
3. For students who apply for admission before they graduate from high school, colleges will consider a student's cumulative GPA at the end of 1<sup>st</sup> semester of 12<sup>th</sup> grade or ACT/SAT test scores in determining placement.
4. Colleges will establish local policies regarding using GPA for placement for students ~~graduating prior to 2013 who do not have FRC Codes\*~~ on their transcripts and for students with transcripts from out-of-state high schools.
5. ~~Placement cut scores for diagnostic assessments will be developed for developmental math modules in Spring 2013 and for developmental reading/English in Spring 2014.~~ Colleges must use State Board-approved cut scores to place students into the appropriate developmental math (DMA) module or reading/English (DRE) course.
6. Colleges will establish local policies to allow students who are assessed near college ready on the diagnostic assessment to co-enroll in a college course and the appropriate developmental education module/course that is a prerequisite for the college-level course.
7. The North Carolina Community College System will review student placement and success rates within two years of implementation of this policy and will report to the State Board of Community Colleges.

~~\*Future Ready Core Transcript Code: Beginning with the 2013 graduating class, high school graduates' transcripts will include a Future Ready Core (FRC) Code of 1 – 9. FRC Codes 1, 2, 3, and 4 indicate that a student's high school course of study included Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, and a fourth math suitable for community college and/or university admissions. Both the unweighted high school GPA and the FRC Code will be included in the transcript data download that is being programmed to support the Multiple Measures of Placement Policy.~~

\* To be eligible for Multiple Measures for Placement, a high school student must complete four math courses, including Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra II (or the Common Core equivalents) and one additional math course. Eligible 4<sup>th</sup> math courses are listed on the NCCCS document: *Eligible 4<sup>th</sup> High School Math Courses for Multiple Measures Placement*. The System Office's Program Division will update this list as needed in consultation with the Department of Public Instruction.

**Eligible 4<sup>th</sup> High School Math Courses for Multiple Measures Placement**

High School 4<sup>th</sup> Math Courses:

Advanced Functions and Modeling  
Analytical Geometry  
AP Statistics  
Calculus  
Discrete Mathematics  
Integrated Mathematics IV  
International Baccalaureate Mathematics  
Mindset  
Pre-Calculus  
Probability & Statistics  
Trigonometry

Community College 4<sup>th</sup> Math Courses (Taken in Career & College Promise Pathways):

MAT 143 (Quantitative Literacy)  
MAT 151 (Statistics I)  
MAT 152 (Statistical Methods I)  
MAT 155 (Statistical Analysis)  
MAT 161 (College Algebra)  
MAT 162 (College Trigonometry)  
MAT 165 (Finite Mathematics)  
MAT 167 (Discrete Mathematics)  
MAT 171 (Pre-Calculus Algebra)  
MAT 172 (Pre-Calculus Trigonometry)  
MAT 175 (Pre-Calculus)  
MAT 200 or above