

NJCC Academic Officers Association

Placement Policies

August 19, 2008

APPROVED BY PRESIDENTS – 9/8/2008

(AMENDMENT APPROVED BY PRESIDENTS – 3/9/2009)

College-Level English Composition Placement

AOA is recommending that students shall automatically be placed in the first college-level English composition course when they satisfy any one of three conditions below:

1. Completing the developmental sequence of writing courses at any of the NJ community colleges, or
2. Earning a minimum or greater SAT score of 540 on critical reading, or
3. Earning a minimum or greater score on college administered placement tests as delineated below.

A score of 8 or higher on the WritePlacer*, or on an in-house college developed test. (*Colleges using the in-house test should evaluate the overall quality of writing based on the Score Point Description of the College Board WritePlacer. See Attached.*)

Implementation of this policy shall occur no later than with the admission of the fall 2009 class.

*Based on 12-point rubric (see below for later amendment approved by Presidents)

Satisfying the Elementary Algebra AA & AS Degree Requirement

AOA is recommending that students shall automatically be placed in the first college-level math course when they satisfy any one of three conditions below:

1. Completing the developmental sequence of mathematics courses or at any of the NJ community colleges, or
2. Earning a minimum or greater SAT score of 530 ,or
3. Earning a minimum or greater Accuplacer score of 76.

Implementation of this policy shall occur no later than with the admission of the fall 2008 class.

Further Study Recommendation

The subcommittee is recommending that the AOA, through the Institutional Research Office of each community college, track students' grades in the first college-level English composition course for three years upon implementation of the new cut-off scores. This tracking will help determine the reliability of the new cut-off scores.

ACCUPLACER Testing Procedures

NJ Academic Officers Association (AOA) and NJ Test Administrators Special Interest Group (NJ TASIG) recommend that the nineteen NJ county colleges administer the ACCUPLACER multiple choice and WRITEPLACER essay or in-house essay as follows:

- Essay – limit to no more than 60 minutes
- Math – permit use of pop-up calculator to keep testing aids uniform

NJ TASIG will recommend additional uniform test instructions as appropriate.

Revised English Placement Policy* APPROVED BY PRESIDENTS – 3/9/2009

In 2008, the New Jersey Community College Academic Officers Association (AOA) recommended and the presidents approved an English Placement Policy for placing new students into remedial vs. college-level English. The policy identified three ways that students can place into college-level English courses: (1) Complete the sequence of basic skills writing courses at any NJ Community College (2) Score 540 or higher on the SAT Critical Reading Test or (3) Score 8 or higher on WritePlacer or an in-house college-developed test. Implementation of this policy was to occur no later than with the admission of the Fall 2009 class.

A few months ago, the College Board announced that it was changing the scoring platform for its WritePlacer Essay. Rather than utilizing the existing 2-12 rubric to score WritePlacer essays, the College Board is now going to use a 1-8 scoring system. The College Board has not yet provided a score cross-walk or score correspondence study. The scoring rubric has recently become available, but the essays and prompts are not available at this time.

Despite the lack of important information from the College Board, the AOA believes it is important to update our statewide English Placement Policy right now. Our colleges are already admitting students for the Fall 2009 semester, and the College Board will not support the old testing platform after June 2009.

The presidents have approved the following as recommended by the AOA:

“For English placement of students enrolling in 2009-2010, NJ community colleges will use a cut score of 5 or 6 on the new College Board essay rubric, with the understanding that we will revisit this policy after the statewide validity study is completed.”