

# Appendix F. Freshman Assessment

## REVISION OF FRESHMAN ASSESSMENT AND PLACEMENT PROGRAM

Act 1052 of 1987 mandated a program of student assessment and placement at Arkansas state institutions of higher education beginning with the fall semester of 1988. The mandate for that program was renewed under the provisions of Act 1011 of 1991.

The placement score of a 19 on the ACT sections of reading, math and English composition have been aligned with concordant scores on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) and two other exams published by American College Testing, Assessment of Skills for Entry and Transfer (ASSET) and Computerized Adaptive Placement and Support System (COMPASS). The last time the concordant scores had been set was in October 1995. Since then ACT has revised the concordances of scores for the ACT and the sections of the COMPASS and ASSET exams.

This agenda item proposes to update the policy in order that the placement scores on the ASSET and COMPASS exams are aligned to the placement score of 19 on the respective ACT sections. There are no changes proposed for the placement scores on the ACT sections of reading, math, or English Composition.

On April 19, 2002, the Higher Education Coordinating Board approved the following resolution (Agenda Item No. 22):

**RESOLVED,** That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board adopts the revisions to the policy in this agenda item for the Freshman Assessment and placement Program beginning with the fall semester 2002.

**FURTHER RESOLVED,** That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education to notify the presidents and chancellors of all Arkansas public institutions of higher education of this approval.

### FRESHMAN ASSESSMENT AND PLACEMENT PROGRAM AT STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES IN ARKANSAS

**The full text of Section 23 of Act 1101 of 1991 (A.C.A. 6-61-110) follows:**

All first-time entering freshmen at all state-supported colleges and universities in Arkansas who are admitted to enroll in all associate or bachelor's degree programs shall be tested by the admitting institution for purposes of placement in either college-level credit courses in English and mathematics or remedial courses in English composition, reading, and mathematics. Remedial courses shall not provide credit toward a degree. The State Board of Higher Education shall determine the tests to be used, the testing procedures and exemptions, and minimum scores below which students at all institutions must take remedial courses. The State Board of Higher Education shall base these decisions on consultation with representatives of the institutions of higher education, analysis of the placement procedures presently used by institutions in Arkansas, statewide placement testing programs in other states, and pilot projects involving testing of entering freshmen at selected institutions in Arkansas.

The mathematics, English composition, and reading placement standards contained in this document implement section 23 of Act 1101 of 1991. These standards apply to all first-time-entering undergraduate students, as defined in the Arkansas Higher Education Information System Manual, who enroll in associate or baccalaureate degree programs at state colleges and universities.

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## MATH

No math course less sophisticated than college algebra may be applied toward a baccalaureate degree from a public university in Arkansas. Students scoring 19 or above on the mathematics section of the Enhanced ACT\*, 460 or above on the quantitative portion of recentered SAT\*\*, 39 or above on the ASSET\*\*\*, Intermediate Algebra, or 41 percent or above on the COMPASS\*\*\*\* algebra test may enroll in college-level mathematics courses. Students not meeting the standard must successfully complete a developmental (pre-college level) mathematics program or programs, demonstrating achievement at least as sophisticated as intermediate algebra, in order to be placed in college-level mathematics courses.

## ENGLISH COMPOSITION

Students scoring 19 or above on the English section of the Enhanced ACT, 470 or above on verbal SAT, 45 or above on the ASSET Writing Skills test, or 75 percent or above on the COMPASS. Writing test may enroll in college-level English courses. Students not meeting the standard shall successfully complete a developmental program or programs in English composition before being awarded credit for freshman English. Freshman English may be taken concurrent with or subsequent to any required developmental composition program

## READING

Students scoring 19 or above on the Reading Section of the Enhanced ACT, 470 or above on the verbal section of the recentered SAT, 43 or above on the ASSET Reading skills test or 82 percent or above on COMPASS Reading Skills will be considered to have met minimal reading skill requirements. Students not meeting the standard shall enroll in a developmental program in reading during their first or second semester in college and each subsequent semester, if necessary, until the program is successfully completed

**Note:** The above designated scores are statewide minimum scores. The board and administration of any campus may elect to set higher minimum scores.

- \* American College Testing Program's Enhanced ACT Assessment Test
- \*\* College Board's Recentered Scholastic Aptitude Test
- \*\*\* American College Testing Program's Assessment of Skills for Successful Entry and Transfer
- \*\*\*\* American College Testing Program's COMPASS Placement and Diagnostic Tests.

Adopted: Agenda Item No. 9                      October 13, 1989  
Revised: Agenda Item No. 27                  October 20, 1995  
Revised: Agenda Item No. 22                  April 19, 2002

Test Type	Test	Math	English	Reading
0	ACT	> 18	> 18	> 18
1	SAT	> 459	> 469	> 469
2	ASSET	> 38	> 44	> 42
3	COMPASS	> 40	> 74	> 81