




INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH
BONNIE McCABE HALL

June 12, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: Academic Leadership Council and Student Deans Council

FROM: Silvio Rodriguez 

SUBJECT: CHANGES TO THE PLACEMENT CRITERIA DOCUMENT FOR 2009-2010

Through this memorandum, I would like to alert you to the most important changes that were made in the document for the 2009-2010 academic year that are effective on Wednesday, June 17, 2009, the beginning of the 2009-1 Fall Term registration period. Please share this information and the attached selected "Points to Remember" with your faculty and/or staff.

Section I. PLACEMENT CRITERIA FOR DEGREE AND COLLEGE CREDIT CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

- Included information when the FCAT pilot is tentatively scheduled to end (page 1).
- The Required to Test section reflects changes related to placement scores not expiring as long as there was any letter grade associated with the placement decision (page 1).
- The Exempted from Testing section reflects changes on how MDC will use passing International English Language Testing System (IELTS) scores (pages 2, 5, and 7) and State approved high school courses (page 2).
- The Exemption Using Course Grade chart has been revised by removing SPC 1026 (new course number is SPC1017) from the eligible courses in the writing skill area (page 2).
- The inclusion of STA 2023 as a direct placement mathematics course (same as MAC 1105, MGF 1106, & MGF 1107) (pages 3 and 4).

Section II. CRITERIA FOR DEGREE AND COLLEGE CREDIT CERTIFICATE-SEEKING STUDENTS WITH LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY

- The removal of the EPT as one of two approved English proficiency placement tests (page 5 and 6).
- Aforementioned change related to the use of the IELTS (page 5).

Section III. PROCEDURES FOR TESTING AND PLACEMENT CRITERIA FOR POSTSECONDARY CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

- Procedures were revised to conform to State of Florida TABE Certification training requirements (pages 6 and 7).
- Aforementioned change related to the use of the IELTS (page 7).
- The TABE Licensure exemption process was revised so it is clear that the required documentation needed at the College is the successful completion of the credentialing examination and not the license (page 7).

- **Section IV. PROCEDURES FOR TESTING AND PLACEMENT CRITERIA FOR ADULT GENERAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

- The removal of the CASAS – Life Skills series as one of the multiple CASAS series that are administered at MDC and the use of the CASAS – Life and Work new listening forms (page 9).

Section V. PROCEDURES FOR TESTING AND PLACEMENT CRITERIA FOR EARLY COLLEGE (DUAL) ENROLLMENT

- No important changes (page 10).

Please ensure that all testing information communicated to students from your respective areas reflect the changes that are effective on Wednesday, June 17, 2009, the beginning of the 2009-1 Fall Term registration period. For additional Placement Testing Information and for downloading copies of the 2009-2010 Placement Criteria Document please go to the Institutional Research and Testing website at <http://www.mdc.edu/ir> (click on Testing Information, then Placement Criteria). **In addition, if your area maintains a website, please include appropriate links for testing information from your site to the college-wide testing website.** If you have any questions about the Placement Criteria please contact your campus Testing Director.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Attachment

c: Jose Vicente
Joanne Bashford
David Kaiser
CASSC Chair
CASSC Research & Testing Committee



ATTACHMENT TO PLACEMENT CRITERIA MEMORANDUM FOR 2009-2010

POINTS TO REMEMBER

1. All students must have active MDC student numbers, e-mail addresses, and present proper forms of valid identification prior to taking any placement examination.
2. All DEGREE-SEEKING first-time-in-college students and all COLLEGE CREDIT CERTIFICATE-SEEKING students in Health Sciences programs are required to test (page 1).
3. All COLLEGE CREDIT CERTIFICATE-SEEKING students taking any course outside of their program must test (page 1).
4. All students, except college-credit certificate-seeking, who took a placement examination more than two years ago and whose scores were not used for placement decisions are required to test (page 1). Pending completion of Odyssey programming, placement scores will not expire as long as there was any letter grade associated with the placement decision. Notes: Students with expired scores who initiated enrollment and received any course grade value (e.g. 'W', 'U', or 'P') are NOT required to retest even if Retest Required is displayed in the Testing Analysis section of their degree audit and an 1157 edit stops them from registering for the same course they previously did not satisfy. Students with expired scores who passed lower level college preparatory courses are NOT required to retest and should be advised to register for the next course in their respective sequence. Students who started college preparatory instruction in a subject area may only be referred for retesting on a case-by-case basis by faculty through their department College Preparatory Chairs.
5. If a student satisfied ENC 1101 after initially passing Reading by FCAT, CPT, ACT, or SAT; the student is not required to re-take Reading even if the student's degree audit has Expired Scores and Retest Required is displayed in the Testing Analysis section of their degree audit and an 1157 edit stops them from registering for the appropriate course. As needed, please refer the student numbers of these students to your campus College Preparatory Chairperson and/or Advisement Director so the Reading placement status can be manually updated in Odyssey to 'Met through Testing'.

If a student has not yet satisfied ENC 1101, but initially passed Reading by FCAT, CPT, ACT, or SAT and two years has passed, the student is required to re-take the CPT Reading section and pass prior to registering in ENC 1101. As needed, these students should be referred to the campus College Preparatory Chairperson for advisement purposes.

6. Students with foreign degrees and passing IELTS or TOEFL scores are exempt from testing (pages 2, 5, and 7).
7. Students who attend another college or university, provide appropriate documentation, and are not seeking a degree at MDC are exempt from basic skills testing (page 2).
8. Students who have earned the required course grade are exempted from testing in a specific skill area (page 2). Note: Preparation courses should not be overridden for students who have not yet satisfied the placement area related to the course (e.g. ENC 1112, REA 1125, MAC 1118L). Successful completion of these courses will trigger the 'Met through Credit Course' placement status.
9. Students with passing ACT (19-20) or SAT (440-490) mathematics scores are placed into MAT 1033. These students may request to take the College-Level Mathematics (CLM) subtest of the CPT, which will determine placement into mathematics courses higher than MAT 1033 (page 2). Note: The CLM is also available upon request for students scoring 72-86 on the Algebra subtest of the CPT (page 3).



10. Students who have already registered in a mathematics course (and are past the 100% refund deadline) are not eligible to take the CLM without permission from the chairperson of the Mathematics Department (pages 3 and 4).
11. An algebra score in the range of 87-120 without a college-level mathematics subtest score of 40 or higher places a student in MAT 1033 (page 4).
12. Students with a CLM score of 63 or higher should be referred to the Mathematics Department for advisement purposes (page 4). Odyssey displays "MATHDEPT" for this score range.
13. Students who have not yet satisfied college preparatory reading and writing requirements may not enroll in any Gordon Rule course, except mathematics. Students may select from a list of courses maintained by the Academic Advisement office and approved by the pertinent academic department, for co-enrollment with college preparatory courses (page 4).
14. Students whom placed into college preparatory instruction must maintain continuous enrollment in college preparatory coursework until the requirements are completed (page 4).
15. All students whose TABE scores are more than two years old and who have had a break in their enrollment of more than one year are required to be retested (page 7).
16. Students who attempted the TABE at least two times and pass a related State, national or industry licensure exam are exempt from meeting the basic skills exit score requirement in the related program. The identified credentialing examination has to be specific to the career and must be necessary in order to work in that field. Documentation supporting the successful completion of the credentialing examination is required. The list of licensure programs that exempt students from meeting this requirement is available in the campus Testing Department. Also note that the academic department associated with the exemption is responsible for approving the valid examination credential presented by students. An authorized copy must be received by the Student Records section of the Registrar's Office for archiving purposes and for updating the Maintain Licensure/Certification Credentials screen (AD CR LC). Upon successful completion of the required processing, the Maintain Student TABE Exemption (SR TS SP TE) Odyssey screen will correctly display the exemption information related to a license. A comment should also be entered in this screen which explains the credential that was used for the exemption (page 7).
17. Students enrolled in a State approved apprenticeship program are exempt from the requirement of taking the TABE test (page 7).