



INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH
BONNIE McCABE HALL

June 15, 2010

MEMORANDUM

TO: Academic Leadership Council and Student Deans Council

FROM: Silvio Rodriguez 

SUBJECT: CHANGES TO THE PLACEMENT CRITERIA DOCUMENT FOR 2010-2011

Through this memorandum, I would like to alert you to the most important changes that were made in the document for the 2010-2011 academic year that are effective on Wednesday, June 16, 2010, the beginning of the 2010-1 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 on Florida's new Postsecondary Education Readiness Test (PERT) (pages 1-11). Placement scores are expected to be available from the State by late August. The PERT transition process at MDC is expected to begin in late Fall for Spring Term registration purposes.
- Included information when the FCAT pilot is tentatively scheduled to end (page 1).
- The Required to Test section reflects changes on how MDC will use the high school success course Math for College Readiness (page 1).
- The Exempted from Testing section reflects changes in the Course Placement Guide – FCAT, ACT, and SAT (item #5) on who should advise students with high FCAT, ACT, or SAT mathematics scores (page 3).
- The Course Placement Guide – FCELPT was modified so it is clear that the course placement for CPT-EA range of 72-120 is MAT 1033 and that a CLM 20-39 score is not used for course placement (page 4).

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

- The Exempted from the English Proficiency Placement Test section reflects changes with the types of IELTS modules that are available and used at MDC (page 5) and how the GED in English is used at MDC (page 5).

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

- The use of a CPT to TABE Comparison Chart (pages 6 and 8).
- 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).
- The Exempted from Testing section reflects a change so it is clear that CLAS met status may be used for part of a TABE exemption (page 7).

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

- The Course Placement Guide – ABE and Pre-GED was modified by adding lower level course placements and the guide for GED Preparatory was modified by adding the placement associated with EDU 075 (page 9).
- The valid period for CASAS and BEST Plus pre-test scores was added and how new and continuing students are placed using the Course Placement Guide - ELCATE was modified (page 10).

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

- Changes related to enrollment for students who have accumulated twelve (12) college credits if they are not yet college ready in the three skill areas (page 11).

Please ensure that all testing information communicated to students from your respective areas reflect the changes that are effective on Wednesday, June 16, 2010, the beginning of the 2010-1 Fall Term registration period. For additional Placement Testing Information and for downloading copies of the 2010-2011 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: Ana Maria Bradley-Hess
Joanne Bashford
David Kaiser
CASSC Chair
CASSC Research & Testing Committee



ATTACHMENT TO PLACEMENT CRITERIA MEMORANDUM FOR 2010-2011

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/PERT, 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/PERT 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 or PERT Mathematics (when available), 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 identified pursuant to rules of the State Board of Education 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).