



**INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH  
BONNIE McCABE HALL**

June 12, 2007

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Academic and Student Deans, School Directors, Chairpersons, Registrars, Advisement and Testing Directors, Selected Advisement Distribution, Adult Education Director

**FROM:** Silvio Rodriguez 

**SUBJECT: CHANGES TO THE PLACEMENT CRITERIA DOCUMENT FOR 2007-2008**

Through this memorandum, I would like to alert you to the most important changes that were made in the document for the 2007-2008 academic year that is effective June 12, 2007. Please share this information and the attached selected "Points to Remember" with your faculty and/or staff.

1. **Section I. PLACEMENT CRITERIA FOR DEGREE AND COLLEGE CREDIT CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS** has been updated with a note that the State of Florida will allow MDC to use FCAT scores to exempt students from placement testing (page 1). Please note that MDC will implement the usage of FCAT scores when all mechanisms are in place. In addition, item #4 in the Exempted From Testing section has been updated with the FCAT information (page 2, also included on pages 5 & 8) and the exemption chart has been enhanced by including a new recommended placement column and by segmenting the mathematics skill area (page 2). Finally, the word usage for degree exemption was revised so it would be consistent with the statement used for TABE (pages 2 & 5 ) and the Elementary Algebra score used to take the college-level mathematics subtest was changed from 90 to 87 (page 3).
2. **Section III. PROCEDURES FOR TESTING AND PLACEMENT CRITERIA FOR POSTSECONDARY CAREER CERTIFICATE (VCC) PROGRAMS** has been updated by replacing vocational with career throughout this section and sections IV and V (pages 5 - 8). This change follows the changes already initiated by the State of Florida.

Please ensure that all testing information communicated to students from your respective areas reflect the changes that are effective June 12, 2007. For additional Placement Testing Information, including use of the FCAT scores for placement at MDC and for downloading copies of the 2007-2008 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 or the FCAT information link). **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  
Norma Martin Goonen  
Joanne Bashford  
Cathy Morris  
CASSC Chair  
CASSC Research & Testing Committee



## **ATTACHMENT TO PLACEMENT CRITERIA MEMORANDUM FOR 2007-2008**

### **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 programs with more than 12 credits are required to test (page 1).
3. All students who passed any college preparatory course or who placed into the lowest levels (REA 0001, ENC 0002, or MAT 0002) need not retest in the corresponding area, if they took a placement examination more than 2 years ago (page 1).
4. 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 displayed in the Testing Analysis section. Note: An 11/16/2005 programming enhancement fixed the problem associated with valid Reading 'Met through Testing' status changing to Retest Required. Subsequent programming fixed the problem associated with the expired passing scores prior to 11/16/2005. 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.

5. Students with foreign degrees are not exempt from testing (pages 2 and 5).
6. Transient students who provide appropriate documentation, and are not seeking a degree at MDC are exempt from basic skills testing (page 2).
7. Students who have earned the required course grade are exempted from testing in a specific skill area (page 2). Note: CLAST 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).
8. The new ACT and SAT subtests are not used for placement purposes.
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 2 and 3).



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 3).
12. Students with a CLM score of 63 or higher should be referred to the Mathematics Department for advisement purposes (page 3). 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 3).
14. 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 5).
15. Students who have earned a license from an approved national, state, or industry agency are exempt from the TABE exit testing requirement. The license has to be specific to the career and must be necessary in order to work in that field. Note: Initial testing is required (page 6). Also note that the academic department associated with the credential must approve valid credentials presented by students and an authorized copy must be received by the Student Records section of the Registrar's Office for updating on the Maintain Licensure/Certification Credentials screen (AD CR LC). Upon completion of the required processing, the Maintain Student TABE Exemption (SR TS SP TE) screen will correctly display the exemption information related to a license.