




INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH
BONNIE McCABE HALL

June 13, 2008

MEMORANDUM

TO: Academic Leadership Council and Student Deans Group

FROM: Silvio Rodriguez 

SUBJECT: CHANGES TO THE PLACEMENT CRITERIA DOCUMENT FOR 2008-2009

Through this memorandum, I would like to alert you to the most important changes that were made in the document for the 2008-2009 academic year that are effective on June 17, 2008, the beginning of the 2008-1 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 how MDC is authorized to use FCAT scores for exempting students from placement testing and when the FCAT pilot is scheduled to end (page 1).
- The Required to Test section reflects changes related to college credit certificate-seeking students. These students will not be required to test as long as they take courses in their program and the course does not require placement. Students in Allied Health will be required to test (pages 1 and 3). These changes are also reflected in the Required to take an English Proficiency Placement Test and English Proficiency Placement Test sections (page 4).
- The Exempted from Testing section reflects changes on how MDC will use foreign degrees from non-English speaking countries and passing TOEFL scores. Odyssey programming will soon be completed so students with foreign degrees who meet MDC's criteria will be exempt from testing (includes CLAST) as well as their General Education requirements (pages 2 & 5).
- The exemption chart by course and grade has been enhanced by including a 'C' and 'S' grade in ENC 1101 for the Reading skill area and including ENC 2300 and ENC 2301. In addition, a statement was added at the bottom of the chart that clarifies the use of 'A', 'B', and 'C' letter grades (page 2).
- The exemption chart by FCAT, ACT, or SAT includes a statement on how MDC will not use institutional scores from other institutions. This statement was also added to the exemption chart by TOEFL (pages 2 and 4).
- The Course Placement Guide includes a statement on how students who test into college preparatory instruction must maintain continuous enrollment in college preparatory coursework (page 3).

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

- New EAP courses are used for levels 1 through 4 (page 4).
- Aforementioned changes related to College Credit Certificate-seeking students (page 4).

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

- Changed this section's title so it includes Career and Technical Education and eliminated references to VCC (page 5 – 8). These changes will also be included in other MDC documents.
- Added a note on the use of the same TABE form and level within a six month period (page 5).
- Aforementioned use of foreign degrees and passing TOEFL scores (page 5). The Exempted from Testing section also reflects changes on the use of passing scores for TABE exemption purposes. This follows the same format used for college credit students (pages 2 & 6). In addition, this section has a new exemption for students in State approved apprenticeship programs (page 6).

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

- Major editorial changes were made in this section to reflect post-testing in pre-GED, placement in GED Preparatory, use of new CASAS forms, and use of a new test (BEST Plus) for some off-campus ESOL students (pages 6 – 8).

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

- Changed this section's title so it includes Early College Enrollment. The use of (DUAL) will continue to be referenced along with the use of early college enrollment. This follows the changes already initiated by the State of Florida and will also be included in other MDC documents (pages 1 & 8).

Please ensure that all testing information communicated to students from your respective areas reflect the changes that are effective on June 17, 2008, the beginning of the 2008-1 Fall Term registration period. For additional Placement Testing Information and for downloading copies of the 2008-2009 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 2008-2009

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 Allied Health 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, or whose scores were used for placement, but who have not yet passed a course in the corresponding area are required to test (page 1). Note: Students with expired scores who initiated enrollment and received any course grade value (includes 'W', 'U', or 'P' must be authorized by the respective college preparatory department for retesting on the ACCUPLACER (CPT). The aforementioned students 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.
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 displayed in the Testing Analysis section. 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 TOEFL scores are exempt from testing (pages 2 and 5).
7. Transient students who 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: 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). 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 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. Students whom placed into college preparatory instruction must maintain continuous enrollment in college preparatory coursework until the requirements are completed (page 3).
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 5).
16. Students who have earned a license from a State approved national, State, or industry agency are exempt from meeting the basic skills exit score requirement in the related program. The license has to be specific to the career and must be necessary in order to work in that field. Note: Initial and post-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.
17. Students enrolled in a State approved apprenticeship program are exempt from the requirement of taking the TABE test (page 6).