

The State of Florida requires entry-level testing for students seeking Associate in Arts and Associate in Science degrees. Students whose native language is not English may be required to take another test to measure their English proficiency before entry-level testing is permitted. The State also requires institutions offering Postsecondary Career and Technical Education and Adult Education programs to test students pursuing these programs. Miami Dade College (MDC) may accept official test scores from approved academic institutions and approved regional workforce boards. Parameters for accepting these scores will be established between coordinating agencies. This year's Placement Criteria Document is divided into five sections: I. Placement Criteria for Degree and College Credit Certificate Programs; II. Criteria for Degree and College Credit Certificate Seeking-Students with Limited English Proficiency; III. Procedures for Testing and Placement Criteria for Postsecondary Career and Technical Education Programs; IV. Procedures for Testing and Placement Criteria for Adult General Education Programs; and V. Procedures for Testing and Placement Criteria for Early College (Dual) Enrollment Students.

I. PLACEMENT CRITERIA FOR DEGREE AND COLLEGE CREDIT CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

The State of Florida requires each public college and university to have scores on one of the following test batteries for degree-seeking students prior to registration: Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT), American College Testing (ACT), or the Florida College Entry-Level Placement Test. The Florida College Entry-Level Placement Test consists of the ACCUPLACER/Computerized Placement Test (CPT) and a paper-and-pencil version of the CPT. The term CPT will be used in this document to designate both forms of this test. Note: Beginning with the 2007-1 Fall Term, the State of Florida authorized MDC to use FCAT scores to exempt first-time-in-college (FTIC) early college (dual) enrollment students and FTIC students who are prior year high school graduates from placement testing. The FCAT Pilot is tentatively scheduled to end after the 2008-1 Fall Term.

The State sets minimum scores below which college preparatory work is required in reading, writing, and algebra. MDC requires additional testing in mathematics depending on the score earned on the algebra section of the CPT. Placement **scores are valid for two years**. FCAT scores are valid for two years after high school graduation. A registration hold is in place to prevent student registration until scores are presented. **Further assessment may be conducted in courses**. Students may retest once on each subtest of the CPT for initial placement. Retesting in any subtest area must occur prior to enrollment in that area or by the 100% refund date each semester.

REQUIRED TO TEST:

1. All degree-seeking first-time-in-college students and all college credit certificate-seeking students in Allied Health programs. Such students may not register for any credit course at MDC until they have a set of complete scores on file. This includes students who hold only a career certificate.
2. All college credit certificate-seeking students taking any course outside of their program.
3. All students who register for any English, or mathematics course (excluding MTB 1103), or any course that requires college-level Reading and/or Writing placement.
4. All students, except college credit certificate-seeking, who register beyond 12 cumulative credits. Note: A College Credit Certificate student who changes status to degree-seeking cannot claim placement exception as a first-time-in-college student for Gordon Rule or other purposes.
5. All students seeking early college (dual) enrollment. Note: Refer to page 8, Section V for placement guidelines.
6. 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 subject area.

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EXEMPTED FROM TESTING:

1. Students who have earned an associate degree or higher from an institution recognized by MDC. Official documentation is required. Students with foreign degrees from non-English speaking countries must present passing TOEFL scores.
2. Students who have earned the required course grade listed in the chart below. Any course grade presented, which is lower than the course grade needed for exemption will require the student to be tested on the appropriate CPT subtest(s). Note: Exemption for courses not on the chart must be approved by the appropriate department chairperson. Official documentation is required.

Skill Area	Course	Grade
Writing	ENC 0021*	A, B, C, S
	Any ENC 1000 or 2000 Level	A, B, C, S
	Any LIT 2000 Level	A, B, C, S
	SPC 1026	A, B, C, S
Reading	REA 0003	A, B, C, S
	REA 1105 or REA 1125	A, B, C, S
	ENC 1101, ENC 1102, ENC 2300, or ENC 2301	A, B, C, S
Mathematics	MAT 0020* or 0024*	A, B, C, S
	MAT 1033**	A, B, C, S
	QMB 2100	A, B, C, S
	Any (MAC, MAD, MAP, MAS, MGF, or STA)	A, B, C, S

* Letter grades 'A', 'B', and 'C' in college preparatory courses are used for transferred in and equivalent courses only.
 **MAT 1033 is a bridge course and does not count toward graduation.

3. Students who attend another college or university, provide appropriate documentation, and are enrolling for courses to transfer to their primary institution (and who are not seeking a degree at MDC).
4. Students who present FCAT, SAT, or ACT scores meeting State requirements (see table below). If multiple test results are on record, the highest subtest scores are used. Any score presented which is lower than the score needed for exemption will require the student to be tested on the appropriate CPT subtest(s). For students presenting passing mathematics scores in specific score ranges* (ACT Mathematics = 19-20 and SAT Mathematics = 440-490), the College-Level Mathematics subtest of the CPT may be used to determine placement into advanced mathematics courses (e.g., MAC 1105, MGF 1106, MGF 1107, etc.).

Skill Area	Recommended Placement	FCAT	ACT	SAT
		Subtest Score	Subtest Score	Subtest Score
Reading	EXEMPT	Reading ≥ 355 or Level 4	Reading ≥ 18	Critical Reading ≥ 440
Writing [▲]	ENC 1101	Reading ≥ 355 or Level 4	English ≥ 17	Critical Reading ≥ 440
Mathematics*	MAT 1033	N/A	19 - 20	440 - 490
	MAC 1105, MGF 1106, or MGF 1107	Math ≥ 375 or Level 5	≥ 21	≥ 500

*If recommended placement is MAT 1033, refer to CPT College-Level Mathematics subtest. MAT 1033 is a bridge course and does not count toward graduation. If recommended placement is MAC 1105, MGF 1106, or MGF 1107 refer to Mathematics Department advisor for placement into other advanced mathematics courses.

▲Faculty may recommend supplemental services based on a required writing sample.

Notes:

Students who have already registered in a mathematics course (and are past the 100% refund deadline) are not eligible to take the College-Level Mathematics subtest without permission from the chairperson of the Mathematics Department.

If combined SAT score is 1200 or more in Critical Reading and Mathematics, or composite ACT score is 26 or more, the student may be eligible for The Honors College and should check additional eligibility requirements at www.mdc.edu/honorscollege.

Institutional ACT and SAT scores from other institutions are not used for exemption purposes at MDC.

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2008-2009 COURSE PLACEMENT GUIDE			
Reading*		Writing*	
20 - 50	REA 0001 ⁽¹⁾	20 - 50	ENC 0002
51 - 70	REA 0002	51 - 70	ENC 0020
71 - 82	REA 0003	71 - 82	ENC 0021
83 - 120	EXEMPT	83 - 120	ENC 1101 [▲]
<p>¹Students scoring at this level must see an advisor prior to registering.</p> <p>*Students who have not satisfied college preparatory reading requirements may not enroll in college-level English even if their writing test score is 83 or higher. Students who have not 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 prep courses.</p> <p>[▲]Faculty may recommend supplemental services based on a required writing sample.</p>			
Mathematics			
Placement may be based on a combination of tests. Arithmetic scores are required for students scoring below the noted score on the Algebra subtest.			
Algebra Score	Arithmetic Score	College-Level Mathematics Score	Required Placement
20 – 71	20 - 29	Not Required	MAT 0002
20 – 71	30 - 64	Not Required	MAT 0020
20 – 71	65 - 120	Not Required	MAT 0024
			Recommended Placement
72 – 86	Not Required	Not Required ⁽¹⁾	MAT 1033 ⁽²⁾
87 – 120 ⁽³⁾	Not Required	20 – 39	MAT 1033 ⁽²⁾
87 – 120	Not Required	40 – 62	MAC 1105, or MGF 1106, or MGF 1107
87 – 120	Not Required	63 – 120	Refer to Mathematics Department
<p>¹College-Level Mathematics subtest available upon request. Students who have already registered in a mathematics course (and are past the 100% refund deadline) are not eligible to take the College-Level Mathematics subtest without permission from the chairperson of the Mathematics Department.</p> <p>²MAT 1033 is a bridge course and does not count toward graduation.</p> <p>³An algebra score in this range without a college-level mathematics subtest score of 40 or higher places a student in MAT 1033.</p>			
COURSE PLACEMENT GUIDE NOTES:			
<p>Further assessment may be conducted in courses.</p> <p>If scores on one or more of the subtests require college preparatory placement, students must enroll in at least one college preparatory course during their first term. Students who test into college preparatory instruction and subsequently enroll in college preparatory instruction must successfully complete the required college preparatory studies by the time they have accumulated twelve (12) credits of college credit coursework or they must maintain continuous enrollment in college preparatory coursework each semester until the requirements are completed while performing satisfactorily in the degree.</p> <p>Students placing into college preparatory course work in one skill area are required to enroll concurrently in SLS 1505; students placing in two or more skill areas are required to enroll concurrently in SLS 1510 (formerly SLS 1535).</p> <p>If CPT scores are college-level in all skill areas, students may be eligible for The Honors College and should check additional eligibility requirements at www.mdc.edu/honorscollege.</p>			

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

Students without sufficient English proficiency to take the CPT are required to take an MDC approved English proficiency placement test (EPT or COMPASS/ESL [ACT-ESL]) and be placed in the designated English as a Second Language (English for Academic Purposes [EAP]) course. This includes students with foreign degrees that were earned from an accredited institution where the official language of instruction is not English. CPT testing is required following EPT or COMPASS/ESL (ACT-ESL) testing and/or completion of EAP courses.

REQUIRED TO TAKE AN ENGLISH PROFICIENCY PLACEMENT TEST:

1. All students required to test in Section 1 (page 1) who graduated from a non-English speaking high school.
2. All students required to test in Section 1 (page 1) who took ESOL during their eleventh or twelfth grade at any English speaking high school.
3. All students required to test in Section 1 (page 1) who earned a GED in Spanish.
4. All students required to test in Section 1 (page 1) who took an MDC approved English proficiency placement test more than one year ago and whose scores were not used for placement decisions.
5. Students transitioning from EDU 070, EDU 058, or EDU 064 to degree or Allied Health college credit certificate programs are required to take an MDC approved English proficiency placement test in order to determine eligibility.

EXEMPTED FROM ENGLISH PROFICIENCY PLACEMENT TEST:

1. The table below indicates the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) scores used to exempt students from English proficiency placement testing.

TOEFL Exam	Total Score
Paper-and-pencil	550 or higher
Computer-based	213 or higher
Internet-based*	79 or higher
*Effective 9/24/2005 Note: Institutional TOEFL scores from other institutions are not used for exemption purposes at MDC.	

2. All students who earned a college credit certificate in a MDC program of more than 12 credits or from an institution recognized by MDC. Official documentation is required.

THE FOLLOWING PLACEMENT SCORES ARE IN USE FOR EPT AND COMPASS/ESL (ACT-ESL) (page 5):

Note: EAP levels 1 through 4 are college preparatory levels and EAP levels 5 and 6 are college-level that do not count towards graduation.

Course Placement Guide – EPT	
EPT Raw Score	EAP Course Placement
0 – 30	Level 1
31 – 44	Level 2
45 – 58	Level 3
59 – 72	Level 4
73 – 86	Level 5
87 – 95	Level 6
96 – 100	Exempt from EAP
Campus department may recommend an adjustment to initial placement based on a writing sample and/or oral interview. Further testing may be done in classrooms.	

Course Placement Guide – EAP Writing	
EAP Writing Sample Score	EAP Course Placement
0.1	Pre-Level 1
1	Level 1 – EAP 0140
2	Level 2 – EAP 0240
3	Level 3 – EAP 0340
4	Level 4 – EAP 0440
5	Level 5 – EAP 1540
6	Level 6 – EAP 1640
7	Exempt from EAP

Course Placement Guide – COMPASS/ESL (ACT – ESL)							
Composite		Grammar Subtest		Reading Subtest		Listening Subtest	
25–45	Level 1						
46–58	Level 2						
59–69	Level 3						
70–78	Level 4	70-80	Level 4	79-86	Level 4	72-82	Level 4
79–92 use subtest scores		81-88	Level 5	87-92	Level 5	83-91	Level 5
93–99 Exempt if writing sample score is Exempt from EAP		89-97	Level 6	93-97	Level 6	92-97	Level 6
		98-99	See Chair	98-99	See Chair	98-99	See Chair
Campus department may recommend an adjustment to initial placement based on a writing sample and/or oral interview. Further testing may be done in classrooms.							

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

Depending on the program, MDC administers the TABE Complete Battery or Survey, Level A, Forms 9 and 10. Level D may be used if the completion level of the program is at the 9th grade level or less. Completion of a prescribed remediation program is suggested prior to retesting with a minimum 30-day period between retests. Note: Same TABE Form and Level must not be administered within a six month period. Remediation should include 60 hours of instruction between pre/and post-testing, using an alternate version of the TABE and at least 120 hours of instruction when using the same level and same form.

Minimum basic skills levels as grade equivalents in mathematics, language, and reading are defined in each career certificate program description adopted under Rule 6A-6.0571, and published annually by the Commissioner of Education in the document entitled, "Career Education Program Courses Standards." Refer to this document for minimum required basic skills grade levels to earn a certificate by program.

Agencies sponsoring career certificate seeking students may set higher requirements and exemptions for testing.

Students without sufficient English proficiency are referred to the Adult English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program. Refer to Section IV-C (page 7).

REQUIRED TO TEST:

1. All first-time-in-program students who designate themselves as certificate-seeking in a program of 450 hours or more. Such students must complete an entry-level examination within the first six weeks of admission into the program.
2. All students whose TABE (or other approved examination) scores are more than two years old and have not been used for placement.
3. All students whose TABE (or other approved examination) scores are more than two years old and who have had a break in their enrollment of more than one year.

EXEMPTED FROM TESTING:

1. Students who have earned an associate degree or higher from an institution recognized by MDC (Except in specific situations such as certain programs sponsored by external funding agencies). Official documentation is required. Students with foreign degrees from non-English speaking countries must present passing TOEFL scores.

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2. Students who present FCAT, SAT, ACT, or CPT scores which exempt them from college preparatory placement as outlined in Section I, Exemptions From Testing, Item #4 are exempt from testing for career certificate programs. Any score presented which is lower than the score needed for exemption will require the student to be tested on the appropriate TABE subtest(s).
3. Students who have completed the College-Level Academic Skills Test (CLAST) requirement pursuant to Section 1008.29 F.S. are exempt from testing for career certificate programs.
4. Students who present official scores on any of the state-approved examinations (including the CPT) which demonstrate the skill level required by the specific program. The scores must have been obtained within the past two years.
5. Students seeking entrance into the MDC School of Criminal Justice Corrections and Law Enforcement programs pursuant to Section 943.17(6) F.S. are exempt from entry-level basic skills testing. This exemption does not apply to the Florida Basic Abilities Test (F-BAT) requirement for entry into basic recruit training programs.
6. Students enrolled in a State approved apprenticeship program are exempt from the requirement of taking the TABE test. (2008 State Bill 1908 – Effective date TBA).

EXEMPTED FROM MEETING THE BASIC SKILLS EXIT SCORE REQUIREMENT ONLY:

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 identified license has to be specific to the career and must be necessary in order to work in that field. Official license and documentation are required. (Initial and post-testing is required.) The list of licensure programs that exempt students from meeting this requirement is available in the campus Testing Department.

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

MDC administers the TABE Survey, Forms 9 and 10 with locator. The TABE retesting guidelines in Section III are also followed for Adult Basic Education (ABE) and General Education Development (GED) programs. Students post-testing in pre-GED classes must take TABE levels “D” or “A”.

Students without sufficient English proficiency are referred to the Adult English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program. Refer to Section IV-C (page 7).

A. Placement Guide for Adult Basic Education (ABE):

The following placement scores are required for placement in the ABE programs:

ABE and PRE-GED Placement Guide		
TABE Grade Equivalent*	Required Placement	Literacy Completion Point
Reading		
6.0 – 8.9	EDU 090, and EDU 063 [▲] , and EDU 089 [▲]	LCP – (D, B, C)
Language		
5.0 – 5.9	EDU 083	LCP – M
6.0 – 8.9	EDU 080	LCP – A
Math		
4.0 – 5.9	EDU 073	LCP – C
6.0 – 8.9	EDU 076	LCP – E
<small>*Students whose TABE scores are below the minimum required levels are referred to other adult basic education programs or to other remediation programs offered by MDC. Information about these options will be provided to the student during the placement interview. [▲]TABE Reading score is used for placement into EDU 063 – Pre-GED Social Studies and EDU 089 – Pre-GED Science.</small>		



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B. Placement Guide for General Education Development (GED) Preparatory Courses:

GED students should obtain a minimum 9.0 grade level equivalent on the TABE for each subject area in order to gain the most benefit from the GED preparatory courses. If a student scores a 9.0 grade equivalent or higher in reading and less than 9.0 in mathematics and/or language, the student can be enrolled in both GED and ABE programs of study.

Students are registered in EDU 075 – GED Preparatory – Comprehensive (Literacy Completion Point A-E) if they lack a State of Florida recognized high school diploma and have passed all of the subtests of the GED test without obtaining an overall passing score of 2250. All other students are registered in the appropriate EDU courses based on their TABE scores. Refer to Section IV-A, (page 6):

A student who has taken the GED test and was below the minimum required score on at least one, but not all of the subtests, is enrolled in one or more of the following courses:

GED Prep Courses Placement Guide	Literacy Completion Point
EDU 085 GED Preparatory – Language/Writing	LCP – A
EDU 078 GED Preparatory – Social Studies	LCP – B
EDU 079 GED Preparatory – Science	LCP – C
EDU 095 GED Preparatory – Literature/Reading	LCP – D
EDU 077 GED Preparatory – Mathematics	LCP – E

C. PLACEMENT GUIDE FOR ADULT ENGLISH FOR SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES (ESOL) AND ENGLISH LITERACY FOR CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION (ELCATE)

MDC administers the Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment System (CASAS) – Life Skills (reading and listening forms for initial placement and post-testing ESOL students), or CASAS - Life and Work (reading forms) for initial placement and post-testing ESOL students, or CASAS - Employability Competency System (reading form) for post-testing ELCATE students only. The writing sample is used to determine literacy in the student’s native language. Students are placed in ESOL non-advanced courses based on the lower of the Reading and Listening scores and placed in ESOL advanced courses based on the Reading score only. Students are placed in ELCATE courses based on Reading scores only. An appropriate form of the CASAS is used for post-testing students transitioning to their next level of courses and for completion of Low Advanced ESOL (EDU 058), High Advanced ESOL (EDU 064), or Advanced ELCATE (EDU 070). Students transitioning from EDU 058, EDU 064, or EDU 070 to career certificate programs are tested on the TABE following the testing guidelines in Section III in order to determine program eligibility. Students who enrolled in ESOL/ELCATE courses must follow the approved post-testing procedures.

Students who are not literate in their native language will be administered a Native Language Literacy Screening Device to determine their initial placement level. The Basic English Skills Test (BEST Plus) is used for pre and post-testing off-campus Literacy for Household Grant ESOL students.

Eligible students who do not meet the following minimum placement criteria will be referred to other programs offered by the College [Refugee/Entrant Vocational Education Services Training (REVEST), non-credit Intensive English, etc.] or to programs offered by Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

ELCATE Placement Guide		
CASAS Score	Course Placement Level[^]	Literacy Completion Point
201 – 210	EDU 068 – ELCATE Beginning	LCP – A
211 – 220	EDU 069 – ELCATE Intermediate	LCP – B
221 – 235	EDU 070 – ELCATE Advanced	LCP – C
[^] Based on Reading score only.		

ESOL Placement Guide			
CASAS Score	BEST Plus Score	Course Placement Level [▲]	Literacy Completion Point
<181*	<401	EDU 057 – Foundations	LCP – A
181 – 190	401 – 417	EDU 059 – Low Beginning ESOL	LCP – B
191 – 200	418 – 438	EDU 060 – High Beginning ESOL	LCP – C
201 – 210	439 – 472	EDU 061 – Low Intermediate ESOL	LCP – D
211 – 220	473 – 506	EDU 062 – High Intermediate ESOL	LCP – E
221 – 235	507 – 540	EDU 058 – Low Advanced ESOL	LCP – F
236+	541+	EDU 064** – High Advanced ESOL	LCP – A

*Students must be literate in their native language.
 **New optional course effective 2005-3.
 ▲Based on the lower of the Reading and Listening scores for non-advanced courses and Reading only for advanced courses.

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

Florida Statute, Section 1007.271 describes the early college (dual) enrollment program as the matriculation of an eligible secondary student or home education student in post secondary courses that can be applied toward a career and technical certificate, or an associate or baccalaureate degree. The credits that students earn must be used toward both high school graduation and be acceptable toward the technical certificate, associate, or baccalaureate degree.

Early college (dual) enrollment students must pass the appropriate sections of the FCAT, CPT, ACT, or SAT, to enroll in college credit courses. Students in an approved technical preparatory program who plan on enrolling in career certificate courses must pass the TABE and meet the minimum basic skills grade levels in mathematics, language, and reading as defined by the career/technical program.

REQUIRED FOR EARLY COLLEGE (DUAL) ENROLLMENT COLLEGE CREDIT STUDENTS:

1. Students must pass the English and reading sections of the CPT, ACT, or SAT prior to registering for courses not related to mathematics, performing arts, and visual arts.
2. Students must pass the reading and college-level mathematics section of the CPT, or meet MDC's required FCAT, ACT, or SAT score prior to registering for MAC 1105 or higher, or any course that requires mathematics as a pre-requisite.
3. Students must pass the reading and elementary algebra section of the CPT, or pass the required reading and mathematics section of the FCAT, ACT or SAT prior to registering for accounting courses.
4. Students must pass **all** sections of the FCAT, CPT, ACT, or SAT for science (biology, chemistry, physics, earth science) and engineering courses.