



Title of Policy: College-level Readiness Assessment and Course Placement Policy

Policy (check one): New X Revised Reformatted

Applies to (check all that apply):

Faculty **Staff** **Students** X

Division/Department Student Affairs **College** X

Topic/Issue:

Academic Standing

This policy applies to all students full and part time.

Background to Issue/Rationale for Policy:

Baltimore City Community College's (BCCC) College-level Readiness Assessment and Course Placement Policy is used to determine the course level at which students will start on their path to success at the College in mathematics and reading/English and other transferable courses. Prior to the College-level Readiness Assessment and Course Placement Policy, most entering students were assessed for placement using a standardized placement test. The new policy will allow for students to be assessed and placed via additional forms of assessment utilizing a rubric following the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by the Public-School Superintendents Association of Maryland and the Maryland Association for Community Colleges (MACC).

State/Federal Regulatory Requirements:

The College and Career Readiness and College Completion Act of 2013 (CCR-CCA)

Senate Bill 740 update the CCR/CCA Toolkit 2019

Revised June 15, 2021

http://www.dsd.state.md.us/COMAR/subtitle_chapters/13B_Chapters.aspx

Code of Federal Regulations 22 § 41.61(b)(1)(iii)

https://www.govregs.com/regulations/title22_chapterI_part41_subpartG_section41.61

Code of Federal Regulations 8 § 214.3(k)

<https://www.ice.gov/sites/default/files/documents/Document/2016/sevp-PGS132-i20.pdf>

Policy Language:

Proposed Policy Language for Placement into College Level Courses

Baltimore City Community College (BCCC) will utilize a variety of assessment measures to demonstrate college readiness for initial course placements in math, reading/English as well as for placement in other college-level courses. The form of assessment(s), subject area, score(s), date(s), and placement recommendation(s) will be captured in the student information system for every student's assessment.

Initial Placement at Baltimore City Community College

Students can demonstrate readiness to succeed in college-level courses via one or more of the options noted below.

1. BCCC Alternative Math and English Assessment
2. Transferable College Level Coursework
3. Degree from an Accredited College or University
4. SAT and/or ACT Tests
5. Advanced Placement (AP) Exam
6. Official High School Transcript Review
7. High School Transition Course
8. College Level Exam Program (CLEP)
9. Prior Learning Assessment
10. Standardized Placement Exam, e.g. ACCUPLACER, TOEFL®

Descriptions of placement options are outlined below:

1. BCCC Alternative Math and English Assessment

- BCCC is committed to the success of its students. The College accepts a variety of measures to demonstrate college readiness including the BCCC Alternative Math and English Assessment, which includes reading/writing and math assessment components. Through the College's Learning Management System (i.e. Canvas), students complete the reading/writing and math assessments and, based on the grading rubric, are recommended for placement in college-level or developmental math and reading/English courses.

2. Transferable, College Level Coursework

- Initial placement may be based on the documented completion of a transferable college-level English (ENG) course at another accredited institution. This qualifies the student for direct placement into ENG 102 (Introduction to the Term Paper and Research Methods) or

higher and all College courses with a college-ready prerequisite in English. An official transcript must be submitted showing a grade of C or better.

- Completion of a transferable college-level math course at another accredited institution qualifies students to register for all College courses with a college-ready prerequisite in math. An official transcript must be submitted showing a grade of C or better.

3. Degree from an Accredited College or University

- Initial placement may be based on the documented receipt of a degree from an accredited college or university. This qualifies the student for direct placement in ENG 102, college-level math courses and all College courses with a college-ready prerequisite. An official transcript must be submitted showing a grade of C or better.

4. SAT or ACT Tests

- An SAT Critical Reading or Evidence-Based Reading and Writing score of 480 or higher qualifies the student for direct placement into ENG 101 (English Writing) and all college courses with a college-ready prerequisite in English.*
- An SAT Math score of 530 or higher qualifies the student for direct placement into college-level math courses and all College courses with a college-ready prerequisite in math.*
- An ACT Composite score of 21 or higher qualifies the student for direct placement into ENG 101, college-level math courses and all College courses with a college-ready prerequisite.*

* Subject to change based on College Board scoring policies. (Collegereadiness.CollegeBoard.org)

5. Advanced Placement (AP) Exams

- An English Language score of 3 or higher qualifies the student for direct placement into ENG 102 and awards the credits for ENG 101. Completion of AP English without taking the AP exam qualifies the student for placement into ENG 101.*
- A Calculus AB or BC score of 3 or higher qualifies the student for direct placement into MAT 141 (Calculus II) and awards the credits for programs requiring MAT 107 (Modern Elementary Statistics), MAT 128 (Pre-Calculus I) or MAT 140 (Calculus I) only. *
- All other AP Exam scores of 3 or higher qualify the student for college credits based on the equivalent course at BCCC *

* Subject to change based on College Board scoring policies. (APhighered.CollegeBoard.org)

6. High School Achievement

Placement into credit-bearing English and mathematics courses may be determined by overall high school Grade Point Average (GPA). English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) students must have exited ESOL instruction by Grade 11 to demonstrate college-ready English Language proficiency.

- Graduation from high school in the last five years with at least a 2.5 overall high school GPA qualifies the student for direct placement in ENG 101 and all College courses with a college-ready prerequisite in English. High school seniors may be placed using their high school GPA current through the fall semester of their senior year. Graduation from high school with a grade of C or higher in Honors English qualifies the student for direct placement in ENG 101.
- Graduation from high school in the last three years with at least a 2.5 overall high school GPA, including successful (C or better) completion of Algebra II within the same period, qualifies the student for direct placement into college-level math and all College courses with a college-ready

Revised June 15, 2021

math prerequisite. High school seniors may be placed using their high school GPA current through the fall semester of their senior year.

7. High School Transition Course

- Successful completion of a high school transition course in English within the last five years qualifies the student for direct placement in ENG 101 and all college courses with a college-ready prerequisite in English if the student received a C or better in the transition course.
- Successful completion of a high school transition course in math in the last three years, qualifies the student for direct placement in college-level math and all college courses with a college-ready math prerequisite.

8. College Level Exam Program (CLEP)

- The College participates in the College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) as a means of assessing and awarding credit for knowledge obtained through prior experience or course work taken at non-accredited institutions. CLEP is also a means of evaluating post-high school learning experiences, education through employment, and skills gained through the Armed Services. Students are advised to review the CLEP policies of the institutions to which they expect to transfer. Information regarding CLEP tests and fees may be obtained from the Testing Center. BCCC offers CLEP examinations only for courses which parallel those found in the college's catalog, including credit-level math and English courses. A current list of CLEP examinations for which [Baltimore City Community College](#) will grant credit is listed in the BCCC catalog or can be obtained from the Testing Center. The chart below indicates which CLEP tests in English and math earn students college credit as well as direct placement into courses in those disciplines.

9. Prior Learning Assessment

- Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) provides students with the potential to earn credit for college level learning acquired outside a traditional academic environment.
- PLA is an evaluation of a person's life learning for college credit. That learning could have been acquired by working, participating in an employer's training program, serving in the military, studying independently, performing volunteer or community service.
- PLA is conducted through an evaluation process. PLA can be assessed in a number of different forms, such as a portfolio assessment, credit by examination (e.g. CLEP Exams or Departmental Exams etc.), or even by Articulated Industry Credits (e.g. CISCO Certification, etc.).

10. Standardized Placement Exam

- **ACCUPLACER:** a computer-adaptive assessment designed to evaluate students' skills in English and Mathematics. ACCUPLACER at BCCC is comprised of two sections. Students are asked to complete 20 questions in mathematics and 25 questions in English. Students may also retest once after 48 hours if they feel that they have not done their best. The assessment is untimed and upon completion of the assessment, students' scores are immediately available.
- **TOEFL:** tests are English language proficiency assessments often required for admission if a student's country is not an English-speaking country. The tests provide an accurate measure

of a student's ability to use and understand the English language in the classroom. Alternatively, students can qualify by taking the ACCUPLACER for English Language Learners (formerly known as LOEP) or the applicable departmental language assessment.

Implementation Date: July 1, 2021

Proposed by: Student Affairs and Academic Affairs

Approved by the Board of Trustees: June 16, 2021

****This policy once approved by the Board of Trustees supersedes all other policies.***