




April 23, 2020

MEMORANDUM

TO: Erika Lacro
Vice President for Community Colleges

FROM: Tammi Chun 
Interim Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs

SUBJECT: English and Mathematics Placement: Use of EdReady and additional placement measures for AY 2020-21

As campuses have implemented social distancing, employee health, and campus access restrictions due to COVID-19 guidelines, face-to-face Accuplacer testing is no longer a viable option for UHCC testing centers or for students. In Fall 2019, over 3,300 students or 52% of incoming UHCC students relied on Accuplacer testing to place into math or English (and 39% of incoming students were placed with alternative, multiple measures). This presents a challenge to provide placement for students attempting to register for Summer or Fall 2020 courses in an environment without access to in-person testing services.

Potential solutions to address the placement issue were discussed at the March 25, 2020 VCAA meeting with the recommendation to request a formal proposal from the UHCC Cognitive Assessment Committee (committee). The committee members solicited input from campus math and english faculty/coordinators and developed a draft proposal April 7 contingent on the capabilities of the UHCC testing centers. The committee received input from all UHCC testing center directors and the placement proposal was amended on April 14. Chancellors provided questions and positive feedback to the placement proposal on April 24 and recommended adoption of the committee's proposal.

As you know, testing supports and consistent placement policies and processes assist new students register for the appropriate math and English courses consistent with the UHCC design for first-year success. Therefore, we recommend your approval of the following procedures:

1. **“Multiple measures” should be used first:** Utilization of non-Accuplacer measures as the primary source of placement for all students, including:
 - a. Cumulative High School GPA;
 - b. ACT, SAT, HiSET, and Smarter Balanced scores;
 - c. Mathematical/Language Arts Reasoning GED scores;
 - d. Prior course taking.

Campus procedures should be in place to collect students' self-reported and official scores and for campus staff to apply qualifying scores to the students' banner record to allow for course registration.

2. **New ACT/SAT/other cut-off scores may be used for Math 1-below and 2-below courses:** Expanding use of ACT, SAT, HiSET, GED Mathematical Reasoning for placement into additional college Math courses per the adoption of cut-off scores recommended by UHCC Cognitive Assessment Committee and developed by the Math faculty workgroup. It is noted that cut-off scores for placement into 1-below and 2-below courses for English have already been established. If recommended, ACT/SAT/other will also allow placement into higher level math courses.
3. **Archived Accuplacer scores (previously considered “expired”) may be used:** Authorizing use of Archived Accuplacer scores for placement for Summer 2020, Fall 2020, and Spring 2021 registration. This pilot will be reviewed in Summer 2021.
4. **EdReady may be used:** Authorizing use of EdReady scores as a systemwide placement measure for math and English for Summer 2020, Fall 2020, and Spring 2021 registration. This pilot will be reviewed in Summer 2021. Implementing the new measure will involve a workgroup of math and English faculty to scope the EdReady diagnostic and learning goals and set cut-off scores to courses; campus Banner specialists to input the new placement measures and scores; Star builders to update the pre-requisite rules; training for EdReady designee (with SOATEST Banner access) to serve as administrators from each campus to view EdReady scores and input qualifying placement to courses; and communication to UHCC counseling, advising, and students. Joshua Kaakua, UHCC Academic Affairs, will coordinate with the UHCC Cognitive Assessment Committee to follow up with implementation procedures directly to the relevant participant groups.
5. **Accuplacer by remote proctoring is available, based on campus capacity to proctor:** Priority for Accuplacer by remote proctoring (i.e., Zoom) should be for students seeking registration into Math 135 and higher. Accuplacer testing via remote proctoring solution should be used after other placement measures, including EdReady, are exhausted. UHCC campuses should not require students to take a proctored exam for initial placement that will incur a fee.

Approve/Disapprove:



Erika Lacro
Vice President for Community Colleges

4/23/20
Date