



Student Development Services

ASSESSMENT FOR COURSE PLACEMENT INVENTORY

Maricopa Community College District

Spring 2004
Data for July 2002-June 2003

Chandler-Gilbert Community College
Estrella Mountain Community College
GateWay Community College
Glendale Community College
Mesa Community College
Paradise Valley Community College
Phoenix College
Rio Salado College
Scottsdale Community College
South Mountain Community College

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Data gathered by the Assessment Technical Group for July 2002 through June 2003.
Please contact the District Office Student Development Office for additional information
at 480-731-8023.

Tests Administered for Initial Course Placement

Four assessment instruments are currently being used in the Maricopa Community College District (MCCD) for initial course placement into English, mathematics, and reading. The following provides a brief overview of the instruments and the usage patterns by academic discipline and by college. **A total of 147,111 tests were administered district-wide for course placement** using ASSET, COMPASS, and CELSA during July 2002 through June 2003.

Colleges utilize ASSET and COMPASS instruments in varying degrees. For example, Chandler-Gilbert Community College exclusively uses ASSET, while Paradise Valley Community College primarily uses COMPASS. Other colleges such as Phoenix College and Scottsdale Community College administer an equal number of each test. All colleges use CELSA for English as a Second Language (ESL) course placement.

Accuplacer, which is a College Board product, is being piloted at two colleges, Rio Salado College and Estrella Mountain Community College as alternative forms of assessment. The Accuplacer instrument was not used during the dates of this assessment inventory.

ASSET is an American College Test (ACT) product and is the primary instrument used by MCCD for student placement into English, mathematics, and reading courses. ASSET is a paper/pencil test lasting about 25 minutes for each section. All ten MCCD colleges administer ASSET and nearly 100,000 tests (99,944) were administered using this instrument for the entire district. (See Attachment A for additional details.)

Total ASSET tests administered by academic discipline:

31,446	English tests administered
34,258	Mathematics tests administered
34,238	Reading tests administered

Total ASSET tests administered by college:

11,146	Chandler-Gilbert Community College
3,385	Estrella Mountain Community College
23,490	Glendale Community College
4,550	GateWay Community College
34,762	Mesa Community College
5,938	Phoenix College
699	Paradise Valley Community College
7,436	Rio Salado Community College
5,465	Scottsdale Community College
3,073	South Mountain Community College

COMPASS is an ACT product used for course placement into English, mathematics, and reading courses. COMPASS is a computerized instrument and it does not have a time limit. Nine of the ten MCCD colleges use COMPASS as an alternative form of assessment to place students into courses. Over, 37,000 tests (37,870) were administered using this instrument for the entire district. (See Attachment A for additional details.)

Total COMPASS tests administered by academic discipline:

13,431	English tests administered
12,339	Mathematics tests administered
11,093	Reading tests administered

Total COMPASS tests administered by college:

0	Chandler-Gilbert Community College
1,007	Estrella Mountain Community College
2,428	Glendale Community College
1,991	GateWay Community College
4,823	Mesa Community College
5,972	Phoenix College
10,083	Paradise Valley Community College
3,288	Rio Salado Community College
5,199	Scottsdale Community College
3,079	South Mountain Community College

CELSA (Combined English Language Skills Assessment) is an Association of Classroom Teach Testers product and is used at all ten colleges for course placement into ESL courses. CELSA is a pencil/paper, timed test lasting about 45 minutes. Over 9,000 tests (9,297) were administered using the CELSA instrument for the entire district. (See Attachment A for additional details.)

Total CELSA tests administered by college:

338	Chandler-Gilbert Community College
351	Estrella Mountain Community College
3,459	Glendale Community College
443	GateWay Community College
1,500	Mesa Community College
1,634	Phoenix College
480	Paradise Valley Community College
25	Rio Salado Community College
467	Scottsdale Community College
600	South Mountain Community College

Non-Course Placement Tests Administered

In addition to administering course placement instruments, the college assessment centers administer a large variety of other tests. A **total of 121,077 additional non-course placement tests** were administered district-wide during July 2002 through June 2003.

Other tests include 8,738 GED, 2,552 standardized tests, 2,638 certification/ credit by exam, 76,024 proctored tests, 1,082 personality inventories, and 30,000 test scanning. The following provides an overview of the total number of additional non-course placement tests administered.

Total number of non-course placement tests administered:

High School Equivalency

8,738 GED – General Education Degree

Standardized Tests

1,309 ACT – American College Test

1,000 SAT – Scholastic Aptitude Test

243 LSAT – Law Scholastic Aptitude Test

Certification/ Credit by Exam

1,421 Certification

391 CLEP – College Level Examination Program

696 HCC – Health Care Core

72 Dental Boards

58 Nelson-Denny

43 DAN TES – Defense Activity for Non-traditional Education Support

Proctored Tests

683 Proctored Tests - Outside Agencies

75,341 Proctored Tests – Instructor Based

Personality Inventory

584 Strong Interest Inventory

498 Myers-Briggs Inventory

Test Scanning

30,000 Scans for faculty

Retests Administered for Course Placement

Six of the ten colleges provided data on retests administered for course placement. For the Fall 2002, 8 percent retested for English placement, 9 percent retested for math placement, and 12 percent retested for reading placement. Of those who retested, 50 percent increased English scores, 43 percent increase math scores, and 59 percent increased reading scores.

English Course Placement

- 8 percent retested for English Placement

Changes in scores:

- 50 percent increased scores
- 19 percent decreased scores
- 31 percent scored the same

Math Course Placement

- 9 percent retested for Math Placement

Changes in scores:

- 43 percent increased scores
- 19 percent decreased scores
- 38 percent scored the same

Reading Course Placement

- 12 percent retested for Reading Placement

Changes in scores:

- 59 percent increased scores
- 17 percent decreased scores
- 24 percent scored the same

Infrastructure Supporting Assessment Centers

The infrastructure to support assessment centers vary by college. Changes to assessment instruments such as moving to an Internet based product will need an appropriate infrastructure to support the change. (See Attachment B for additional details.)

Overview of infrastructure:

- Square Feet of Center Ranges between 375 SqFt to 2,878 SqFt
- Number of Computers Ranges between 2 to 50
- # of Computers w/Internet Ranges between 2 to 50
- # of Full-time Equiv. Staff Ranges between 1.5 to 11
- # of Hours of Operation Ranges between 48 hours per week to 70

Costs for Assessment

The costs for assessing students for course placement include site licenses, per unit test costs or per set costs. There are additional costs for maintenance and supplies that are not reflected in the total estimated costs. The following provides an overview of the annual costs for the Maricopa Community College District.

ASSET

Site License: \$450 per college
Per set (English, reading, math): \$2.70 per set
Total estimated costs: \$94,450

COMPASS

Site License: \$450 per college
Per Unit Test: \$1.15 per unit
Total estimated costs: \$48,050

CELSA

Site License: Varies by college
Total estimated costs: \$6,535

ACCUPLACER

Site License: \$0 per college
Per Unit Test: \$1.35 per unit

Total Estimated Costs (ASSET, COMPASS, CELSA): \$149,035

ATTACHMENT A

Tests Administered for Course Placement

Number of Tests Administered by Instrument during July 2002- June 2003

College	ASSET	COMPASS	CELSA/ESL	Total
CGCC	11,146	0	338	11,484
English	3,244	-	-	3,244
Math	4,312	-	-	4,312
Reading	3,590	-	-	3,590
EMCC	3,385	1,007	351	4,743
English	1,128	336	-	1,464
Math	1,128	336	-	1,464
Reading	1,128	335	-	1,463
GCC	23,490	2,428	3,459	25,918
English	8,476	651	-	9,127
Math	6,073	518	-	6,591
Reading	8,941	1,259	-	10,200
GWCC	4,550	1,991	443	6,541
English	1,642	615	-	2,257
Math	1,262	637	-	1,899
Reading	1,646	739	-	2,385
MCC	34,762	4,823	1,500	39,585
English	9,643	4,500	-	14,143
Eng - RM	-	323	-	323
Math	13,052	-	-	13,052
Reading	12,067	-	-	12,067
PC	5,938	5,972	1,634	11,910
English	1,850	1,622	-	3,472
Math	2,074	2,421	-	4,495
Reading	2,014	1,929	-	3,943
PVCC	699	10,083	480	10,782
English	229	2,780	-	3,009
Math	237	4,707	-	4,944
Reading	233	2,596	-	2,829
RSCC	7,436	3,288	25	10,724
English	2,499	401	-	2,900
Math	3,034	1,112	-	4,146
Reading	1,903	1,775	-	3,678
SCC	5,465	5,199	467	10,664
English	1,736	1,546	-	3,282
Math	2,045	1,878	-	3,923
Reading	1,684	1,775	-	3,459
SMCC	3,073	3,079	600	6,152
English	999	993	-	1,992
Math	1,041	1,066	-	2,107
Reading	1,033	1,020	-	2,053
Total	99,944	37,870	9,297	147,111
English	31,446	13,431	-	44,877
Math	34,258	12,339	-	46,597
Reading	34,239	11,093	-	45,332

**ATTACHMENT B
Facilities and Staff in Assessment Centers**

Square Feet of Assessment Centers, Number of Computers, Number of Computers with Internet Access, Number of Full-time Equivalent Staff, and Hours of Operation during July 2002- June 2003

College	SqFt of Center	# of Computers	# with Internet Access	# Full-time Equiv Staff	Hours of Operation
CGCC	1100	2	2	4 (1 PSA, 1 MAT, 2 temps)	M – Th 8:00 am - 7:00 pm Friday 8:00 am – 2:00 pm Saturday 8:00 – 12:00
EMCC	1050	8	8	1.5	M, T, Th 8:30 am - 7:00 GED W – 9:00 am – 6:00 Friday 9:00 am – 4:00 pm 1 Sat per mo 9:00 – 1:00
GCC					
GWCC	900	15	15	2	M – Th 8:00 am - 7:00 pm Friday 8:00 am – 5:00 pm
MCC					M – Th 8:00 am – 8:00 pm Friday 8:00 am – 5:00 pm
- Main	1920	8	8	2	
- Rd Mtn	375	3	3	1	
PC	1557	23	23	4 (1 MAT, 2 PSA, 1 PSA OYO)	M – Th 8:00 am - 7:00 pm Friday 8:00 am - 12:00 pm
PVCC					M – Th 8:00 am - 7:00 pm Friday 8:00 am – 5:00 pm
RSCC					M – Th 8:00 am - 9:00 pm Friday 8:00 am – 6:00 pm Sat 8:00 am – 4:00 pm
- Tempe	2878	50	50	11	
- East	1379	24 + 20	24	2.5	M – Th 8:00 am - 8:00 pm Friday 8:00 am – 6:00 pm Sat 8:00 am – 4:00 pm
- PV	1120	22 + 20	22	3	M – Th 8:00 am - 8:00 pm Friday 8:00 am – 6:00 pm Sat 8:00 am – 4:00 pm
- SunCty	1000	10 + 10	10 + 10	2	M – Th 5:00 pm – 8:30 pm Friday 8:00 am – 4:30 pm Sat 8:00 am – 4:40 pm Sun 9:00 am – 3:00 pm
- Luke	616	12	12	1.5	M – T 8:30 am – 4:00 pm Thur 8:30 am – 12:30 pm Fri 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm
SCC	924	12	12	3	M – Th 8:00 am - 7:00 pm Friday 8:00 am – 5:00 pm
SMCC	920	20	3	2	M – Th 8:00 am - 7:00 pm Friday 8:30 am – 4:00 pm

ATTACHMENT C

Descriptions and Purposes of Assessment Instruments

ACCUPLACER

Accuplacer is a College Board product used for course placement into English, reading, and math courses. Accuplacer is a computer-based untimed test.

ACT (American College Test)

ACT is designed to assess students' general educational development and ability to complete college-level work. The test covers four skill areas: English, mathematics, reading, and science. ACT is a pencil/paper timed test lasting 4 hours and must be taken at designated locations.

ASSET

ASSET is an American College Test (ACT) product used for course placement into English, reading, and math courses. ASSET is a pencil/paper timed test lasting 1 hour and 45 minutes total.

CAPS (Career Ability Placement Survey)

CAPS is used for the automotive admissions test and covers a variety of skill areas. CAPS is a pencil/paper timed test lasting 1 hour.

CELSA (Combined English Language Skills Assessment)

CELSA is an Association of Classroom Teacher Testers product used for course placement into English as a Second Language (ESL) courses. CELSA covers basic English and is a pencil/paper timed test lasting 45 minutes.

Certification

Certification tests may include: licensure in a profession, Prometric, MOS, CAPS, or HCC. Tests may be pencil/paper or computer-based and vary in content and length.

COMPASS

COMPASS is an American College Test (ACT) product used for course placement into English, reading, and math courses. COMPASS is a computerized untimed test.

GED (General Equivalency Certification)

GED is a high school diploma equivalency test covering writing, reading, science, math, and social studies. GED is a pencil/paper timed test lasting up to 7 hours.

Health Care Core (HCC)

HCC is used by health care programs to award credit by examination. HCC tests may be either pencil/paper or computer based and vary in length of time between 30 minutes to 1 hour.

MOS (Microsoft Office Specialist)

MOS is a computerized certification test in Office 2000 or Office XP and is used by business technology after course completion. Tests last up to 45 minutes.

Nelson-Denny

Nelson-Denny is used by the Fire Science Department for enrollment and admission test for EMT 104. Nelson-Denny is a pencil/paper timed test lasting 45 minutes.

Proctored Tests – Outside Agency

Outside agencies proctored tests include pencil/paper or computer based tests administered to student from an external constituent. The content and length of time vary.

Proctored Tests – Instructor Based

Instructor based proctored tests include pencil/paper or computer based tests administered to student for the purposes of missed exams in the classroom, mid-terms, and/or finals. The content and length of time vary.

Prometric

Prometric is a computer certification exams used by the technology departments after course completion. The content varies and the length of the test lasts between 1 hour and 4 hours.

SAT

SAT is a College Board product designed to assess students' general educational development and ability to complete college-level work. The test covers two skill areas: verbal and mathematics. SAT is a pencil/paper timed test lasting 4 hours and must be taken at designated locations.

MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGES
 COURSE PLACEMENT
 Equivalency Guide

ENGLISH COURSE PLACEMENT

ACCUPLACER	ASSET	COMPASS	ACT	SAT	COURSE
0-44	23-32	0-27	<14	<360	ENG 061 - ESL 061 Basic Writing Skills
	33-34	28-37			Decision Zone: See Advisor
45-69	35-38	38-58	14-17	361-440	ENG 071 - ESL 071
	39-40	59-69			Decision Zone: See Advisor
70-86	41-50	70-96	18-20	441-500	ENG 101 - ENG 107 First Year Composition
87 +	51-54	97-100	>20	>501	ENG 101 or - ENG 108 Honor's ENG 101

READING COURSE PLACEMENT

ACCUPLACER	ASSET	COMPASS	ACT	SAT	COURSE
0-60	23-34	31-60	<17	<360	RDG 081 Reading Improvement
	35-36	61-68			Decision Zone: See Advisor
61-70	37-40	69-80	18-19	360-390	RDG 091 College Reading Skills
	41	81-82			Decision Zone: See Advisor
71 +	42-46	83-90	>19	>390	CRE 101 Critical and Evaluative Reading - requires a satisfactory placement score AND ENG 101 with a grade of "C" or better.
Not Applicable	47-53	91-100	NA	NA	Reading Exemption

MATH COURSE PLACEMENT
Numerical Skills/Pre-Algebra/Arithmetic

ACCUPLACER	ASSET	COMPASS	ACT	SAT	COURSE
<31					MAT 081/082
	23-36	1-28			MAT 082
32-54			<14	<330	MAT 102
	37-42	29-53			Decision Zone: See Advisor
>55			15-19	331-460	MAT 092 or MAT 102 or take elementary alg. test
	43-55	54-100			MAT 090/091/092 MAT 102 or take elementary alg. test

MATH COURSE PLACEMENT
Elementary Algebra

ACCUPLACER	ASSET	COMPASS	ACT	SAT	COURSE
	23-39				MAT 081-082/102 or take elem. alg. test
<81			20-22	470-520	Take arithmetic test
	40-44				MAT 090/091/092
	45-48	50-59			Decision Zone: See Advisor
>82			23	>521	MAT 121/122
	49-55	60-72			MAT 120/121/122 or take intermediate alg. test

MATH COURSE PLACEMENT
Algebra/College Level Math/Intermediate Algebra

ACCUPLACER	ASSET	COMPASS	ACT	SAT	COURSE
	23-42				Take elementary alg. Test
	43-46	73-77			Decision Zone: See Advisor (MAT 120/121/122)
	47-49				Decision Zone: See Advisor (MAT 142/150/151)
	50-55*	78-100*			MAT 142/150/151/152/ 182/187 or take college alg. test (*MAT 182 if enrolled in MAT 150/151/152)

MATH COURSE PLACEMENT
College Algebra

ACCUPLACER	ASSET	COMPASS	ACT	SAT	COURSE
	23-41				Take intermediate alg. test
<29			<24	530-560	Take elementary alg. test
	42-49	46-60			Decision Zone: See Advisor (MAT 142/150/151/152/156 /167/172/182/187/212)
30-49			24-26	561-590	MAT 142/151/182/187
	50-55	61-100			MAT 156/167/172/182/187/ 212/220/221
>50			26-33	>590	MAT 156/167/172/212/220/ 221

Placement Recommendations for ACT/SAT
As used by Arizona public post secondary institutions

Placement into First Year Composition (ENG101)

ACT score	Institution
17	NAU
18	Yavapai
18	NPC
19	ASU
20	Coconino
21	Mohave
21	EAC

SAT score	Institution
340	NAU
420	Coconino
420	Yavapai
470	ASU
520	NPC
530	Mohave
530	EAC

Placement into College Algebra (MAT151)

ACT score	Institution
19	NAU
21	EAC
21	Coconino
22	Yavapai
23	NPC
24	Mohave

SAT score	Institution
470	NAU
520	EAC
520	NPC
530	Coconino
530	Yavapai
540	Mohave

2.2.7 Student Assessment and Course Placement Process

The Maricopa Community Colleges are committed to providing students with opportunities for successful academic experiences. Two important concepts shape the student assessment and course placement policy. First, Student academic achievement is directly related to the quality and amount of academic assessment and proper initial course placement. students receive before their enrollment and during their college experience. Second, the Maricopa Community Colleges have a commitment to provide opportunities for a successful academic experience for students. Students are strongly urged to enroll in the courses indicated by their course placement tests. This Initial course placement should be discussed with an advisor or counselor who is skilled in assessing the student's needs and factors that affect student success.

A. Screening

~~The assessment and course placement process will begin with student screening to determine if a student should take an English, reading and math placement test or an alternate form of assessment. In this initial screening process, all students registering for the first time will be asked to complete the student information form. This information will be stored in the student information system.~~

AB. Course Placement Assessment

Students will be required to complete a course placement test assessments under any one of the following conditions:

- The student is taking his or her first college credit English, reading and/or math course, or any college course for which English, reading or math is a prerequisite.
- The student is pursuing a degree and does not have current valid district approved course placement assessments scores on file or does not have previous college credit in English, reading and math.
- The student does not have a high school diploma or GED, and is applying for federal financial aid.
- The student ^{who} is taking his or her first English as a Second Language class, for whom English is not the primary language, is required to take a test of English proficiency. *CEUSA*

Students will be strongly encouraged to complete a course placement test assessments under any one of the following conditions:

- The student is taking a math course and has a college-level prerequisite on file that is more than five (5) years old.
- The student is taking a college course for which English, reading or math is a prerequisite, and such credit is more than five (5) years old.

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Students MAY be exempt from the a course placement test assessments if at least one of the following conditions apply:

- The student has earned an associate's or higher degree.
- The student has earned college credits from a regionally accredited college in English, reading, and math with a grade of C or higher, and such credit is no more than five (5) years old.
- The student ~~demonstrates that he or she~~ has currently valid district approved course placement scores assessments on file.

Note: Being exempt from taking the ~~(ASSET/COMPASS) for a course placement test~~ does not exempt the student from fulfilling the minimum graduation credit requirements.

~~C. Other forms of Assessment~~

~~If seeking an exemption from taking the ASSET or COMPASS, other assessments will be used to determine appropriate course placement, such as:~~

- ~~– Evaluation of high school transcripts~~
- ~~– Evaluation of college transcripts~~
- ~~– Evaluation of course placement assessments on file at another Maricopa County Community College District college.~~

~~D. Course Placement~~

~~Students are strongly urged to enroll in the courses indicated by their placement tests. This placement should be discussed with an advisor or counselor who is skilled in assessing the student's needs and factors that affect student success. A student receiving an assessment a course placement score within a designated "decision zone" must receive advisement to aid the student in selecting a course(s).~~

~~ASSET/COMPASS scores should be used only for course placement recommendations and not as an admissions criterion for any college program.~~

B.E. Waiver of Course Placement

~~A student may request a waiver of course placement from the appropriate department division chair or college designee. If the student chooses to enroll in or remain in a course different than one recommended during assessment, the student will be asked to sign a waiver stating that he or she has received advisement and that the course selection is his or her decision, providing the student has met the prerequisites for the course. ~~It~~ The waiver will be noted on the student's records that he or she has signed a waiver and the waiver will be kept on file in the Office of Admissions and Records.~~

F. Implementation of Policy

To ensure consistency of the course placement process assessment and student placement within the Maricopa Community Colleges,

- All colleges shall accept use the same course placement assessment instruments.
- All colleges shall adhere to the same cut-off scores.

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- The student shall be permitted no more than one re-test (after a 24-hour waiting period) in English, reading, or by math level ~~per discipline each year~~ (one year from date of student's original or re-test assessment at any ASSET/COMPASS assessment course placement testing site).
- Course placement assessment scores, with the exception of the reading exemption, will be valid for two years from the date of the original or re-test assessment.

Note: The Dean of Student Services or designee may approve re-testing for students with special needs or circumstances. The re-test date will then serve as the date of record.

G. Evaluation

The Maricopa Community Colleges will provide an ongoing evaluation of the ~~assessment and~~ course placement process. An annual report shall be submitted to the Governing Board to indicate the policy's effectiveness noting the number of students assessed, their placement scores and their success in courses. Every three years a thorough review of the policy and procedures shall be implemented, including recommendations from the English, Reading and Math Instructional Councils regarding cut-off scores.