Placement Testing

Purpose:
The purpose of this policy is to establish mandatory placement testing for entering students that will enable students to succeed in achieving their educational goals.

Background:
At the request of the dean of instruction, the Academic Affairs Committee and the Academic Senate reviewed the college's placement testing practices. On May 6, 1996, the senate recommended that testing be required of all entering students except categories of unclassified and transfer students. After administrative review, the policy was approved effective Fall 1996. The policy was reviewed and revised in January 1998 in preparation for the systemwide implementation of the COMPASS test. Further revisions were made in April 1998 to clarify placement status of concurrent students, and unofficial evaluation for advising and registration.

On November 10, 2010, the UHCC vice president received a request from the UHCC Achieving the Dream Initiative Team to develop a “system-wide placement policy that requires entering classified students (those in the AtD Cohort) to have:

1. demonstrated placement prior to registration (typically through a COMPASS test score) and
2. based on placement, enroll in applicable remedial/developmental courses in their first semester but no later than the first year.”

On November 12, 2010, the Academic Senate supported the establishment of a joint task force including administrators, faculty, and staff to develop draft policies in support of the AtD initiative and specific action strategies in the college’s Strategic Plan: 2008-2015. The task force was appointed by the chancellor, met several times during the 2010/2011 academic year, developed a set of recommendations, and submitted a final report to the chancellor on June 3, 2011. Revisions to this policy were submitted to the Academic Senate’s Educational Policy Committee for review during spring 2012. The Academic Senate’s Educational Policy Committee reviewed the revised policy and the Academic Senate approved it on November 30, 2012.

In December 2013, the Dean of Liberal Arts submitted a revision to the policy to reflect the SAT and ACT Mathematics scores identified by the UHCC System in July 2013.

Policy:
A. Placement Testing Requirements for Students Entering Degree and Certificate Programs

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Enrolling students pursuing certificates or degrees must have current COMPASS placement scores in the skill areas required by their programs before registering at Hawai‘i Community College (HawCC) unless they meet one of the exceptions listed in section B of this policy. Without current placement test scores, entering certificate- or degree-seeking students may not register for classes.

B. Placement Testing Exceptions

1. Students who are not pursuing certificates or degrees:

   Students who are not pursuing certificates or degrees and do not enroll in any course that requires a minimum placement test score as a prerequisite are not required to have current COMPASS scores.

2. Students with degrees:

   NOTE: This is for placement purposes only to assist students with registration and meeting HawCC course prerequisites. This placement should be entered as a Human Evaluation preliminary to entry of the student’s transfer credit evaluation. Unofficial transcripts can be used for placement purposes only. Official transcripts must be used to grant transfer credit for courses completed to meet HawCC program and graduation requirements.

   a. Students with associate’s degrees place into ENG 102 and ENG 100 and MATH 24.

   b. Students with bachelor’s degrees satisfy the reading and writing requirements for any course that specifies ENG 100 and / or ENG 102 as prerequisites. Students with bachelor’s degrees place into MATH 100, 27, 115.

3. Students enrolled at the University of Hawaii at Hilo:

   a. Concurrent UHH classified majors place into ENG 102, ENG 100, and MATH 24.

   b. UHH ESL students are placed into HawCC ESL courses based on a combination of their COMPASS ESL placement scores and collaboration between UHH ELI faculty, UHH English Department faculty, and HawCC ESL faculty.

4. Students who meet UH Manoa SAT or ACT entry requriements are placed as follows:

   ENG 100
a. A score of 510 or higher on the Critical Reading section of the SAT test AND a score of 510 or higher on the Writing section of the SAT test.

b. A score of 22 or higher on the English section of the ACT and a score of 22 or higher on the Reading section of the ACT.

MATH 27/100/110/115

a. A score of 510 or higher on the Math section of the SAT test.
b. A score of 22 or higher on the Math section of the ACT test.

5. Students placed through articulation agreements with the Department of Education:

For placement purposes, the college will recognize current articulation agreements between the State of Hawaii Department of Education and the UH System.

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Revised policy issued by: Noreen Yamane, Chancellor