



## Pima County Community College District Administrative Procedure

<i>AP Title:</i>	<b>Placement</b>
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<i>Sponsoring Unit/Department:</i>	Office of the Provost
<i>Policy Title(s) &amp; No(s):</i>	Developmental Education, BP 3.12
<i>Legal Reference:</i>	
<i>Cross Reference:</i>	

### **PURPOSE**

Both cognitive and non-cognitive factors provide important information as to the likelihood of student success in Pima Community College (“College”) courses. By following a multiple-measures structure, the College provides more effective placement for incoming students. To ensure the cognitive factors are indicative of the student’s abilities, preparation for the College’s placement tests is critical.

### **SECTION 1: Placement Tools**

Selection of College placement tools and appropriate cut scores falls under the purview of the appropriate Discipline Faculty Committees (“DFC”) (*i.e.*, Math, Reading, Writing, English as a Second Language, and Sciences) and the Provost’s Office. Either area can initiate the selection of placement measures, and both will jointly participate in the process. The Provost has final approval for all recommendations. The process includes reviewing, benchmarking, and identifying best practices, along with ADA accessibility, financial and operational considerations.

- 1.1 Every three (3) years, a placement task force including members from each DFC will be convened to review the existing process and identify areas for improvement.
- 1.2 The College will conduct validation studies to determine the effectiveness of the tool(s), score ranges, and decision matrix. The task force will analyze the results of the studies and determine next steps.
- 1.3 The DFCs will recommend cognitive and non-cognitive placement tools with associated cut scores to the task force.
- 1.4 The task force will recommend a placement decision matrix based on the placement tools.

## **SECTION 2: Placement Process**

The College placement process will be administered on-site, virtually and/or in contracted/hosted locations.

- 2.1 The placement process includes a Multiple Measures option for eligible high school graduates or equivalencies and placement assessments for all students. In lieu of reading and writing placement tests, English language learners should take the English as a Second Language placement test.
- 2.2 Placement assessments are offered for English as a Second Language, mathematics, reading, sciences, Spanish and writing.
- 2.3 The placement assessment for mathematics, reading and writing includes the ability to increase one's placement level with mastery of learning module content.
- 2.4 The Standard Operating Procedure for the various placement tests dictate retake fees and time between attempts as both may vary by test type.
- 2.5 Placement coaches support students throughout the placement process.

## **SECTION 3: English Proficiency**

- 3.1 International students who have satisfied the minimum English Proficiency requirements are placed by the College placement evaluation process; and, students who have not satisfied the minimum English Proficiency

requirements will take the ESL placement test for enrollment into English as a Second Language courses.

- 3.2 English language learners will take the ESL placement test for enrollment into English as a Second Language courses.

#### **SECTION 4: Non-Credit Learning Opportunities (NCLO)**

The College provides free opportunities for students to increase their knowledge, skills, and abilities in mathematics, reading, and writing. The non-credit learning opportunities introduce students to valuable skills exhibited by successful students and acquaint students with the College's support services.

- 4.1 NCLOs will be scheduled annually by the College Readiness and Student Success ("CRSS") Division in conjunction with campus administrators.
- 4.2 Each campus will provide NCLOs to include, but not be limited to, summer preparatory opportunities.
- 4.3 NCLO outcomes will be reported by the Dean of CRSS to the Provost's office annually as an element of continuous improvement.