Mott Community College Placement Testing
Placement Testing @ MCC

Mott Community College uses the placement assessment software "Accuplacer®." At MCC, the computerized placement test results are used along with other information to recommend the most appropriate beginning course levels for students. Students may also be eligible for additional testing which could provide college credit or allow “testing out” of some MCC General Education Requirements.
History

Accuplacer has been used by MCC since 1996

The college hired Dr. Rick Tallarigo as psychometrist to create the baseline scores that placements would be based upon.

...Placement rules are developed and maintained according to the results of research conducted to link placement test scores with course performance. Consequently, the placement rules are subject to change over time.... Although specific cut scores may change over time, the general rationale for how scores are used remains fairly stable” (advisor’s guide, p.11)
Alternatives to Placement Testing

• ACT - Scores 20 or higher in English, Math, & Reading

• Transcript - Reflecting successful completion of college level English & Math courses

• Degree - An accredited 2 or 4 year degree

• AP - Scores of 3 or higher on English Language and Math Exams

• CLEP - Scores of 50 or higher College Composition and Math Exams
Reading Comprehension

This test is similar to ACT or other standardized tests of reading comprehension. It consists of 20 questions of two types: (a) determining themes, inference, or applications from passages, and (b) determining if sentences support, contradict, or replicate each other.

Results are used to calculate a reading level based on the Nelson-Denny Reading Test and range from Grade 3 through 16
Reading Comprehension

Reading Comprehension grade levels are based on Nelson-Denny Reading Test and equated to Accuplacer scores based on research by College Board.

• Reading comprehension
  – Remediation is recommended below a score of 88 (Nelson-Denny grade 13)
Sentence Skills & Writing Assessment

This test consists of 20 items involving editing and “construction shift” writing skills.

• Writing assessment
  – Students who score below 83 on the Sentence Skills portions of the test are instructed to write the essay
  OR
  – Students who score below 60 (Nelson-Denny grade 10) are instructed to write the essay
## Reading Level Score/Grade Equiv.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accuplacer Reading Score</th>
<th>Nelson-Denny Grade Level</th>
<th>Recommended Reading Placement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-18</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Engl-016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19-24</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Engl-016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-29</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Engl-016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-39</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Engl-016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40-49</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Engl-016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-54</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Engl-016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55-59</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Engl-030</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-73</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Engl-030</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>74-82</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Engl-030</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83-87</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Engl-030</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>88-97</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Engl-100 +</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>98-107</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Engl-100 +</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>108-117</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Engl-100 +</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>118-120</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Engl-100 +</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Course recommendation based on grade level equivalent

Math

Math test divided into three sections: Arithmetic, Elementary Algebra, and College-Level Math

The arithmetic portion of the test consists of 17 items covering whole numbers and fractions, decimals and percentages, and applications and problem solving. All students who test for math placement will take the arithmetic portion.

The elementary algebra portion consists of 12 items and is only administered to students if: (a) they had algebra in high school, or (b) they scored a minimum of 63.

The college-level math portion consists of 20 items covering algebraic operations, solutions of equations, coordinate geometry, applications, functions, and trigonometry.
Math

• Arithmetic – remediation is recommended below a score of 64

More advanced placements

• Math 110 - requires minimum score of 64 in Arithmetic AND below 53 in Algebra
• Math 120 – requires between 53 and 79 in Algebra
• Math 130 – requires minimum score of 80 in Algebra AND below 70 in College-Level Math (minimum score of 80 to be eligible to take college-level math placement test)
• Math 140 – requires between 70 and 81 in College Level Math
• Math 170 - requires minimum score of 82
Score Crosswalk

A crosswalk is being developed in an attempt to align all of the various measurements that are used around campus including:

– Accuplacer
– Course Equivalent
– TABE (adult basic)
– Nelson-Denny
– ACT
– Ability to Benefit – Financial Aid
Future

Although specific cut scores may change over time, the general rationale for how scores are used remains fairly stable. With the various entities reviewing placement testing and student retention and success, it is time to review students’ success at the various placement test score ranges and make adjustments as necessary.

Many committees are currently reviewing this topic including:

• Developmental Education/Placement AQIP Team
• Waitlist/Retention Alert Team
• Achieving the Dream
• State Initiative including P20 and new reporting requirements for Governor Snyder’s dashboards