

## 4.4.1 Placement Testing

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Approved	
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Reviewed	

- I. Students entering a diploma or degree program take placement tests to indicate which level of reading, math, and English is appropriate. Testing is not used for admissions purposes except in the Associate Degree Nursing program and the Surgical Technology program. All students applying for those programs must take the tests and complete any developmental work prior to admission with the exception of students already holding bachelor degrees. Test scores should be used to direct students into courses which will correct deficiencies in the three areas tested. Test scores may be used as indicators of students' abilities, but tests are not used as the sole indicator of whether or not a particular student is capable of being successful in a curriculum.
- II. Retesting: A student wishing to retake any part of the NC-DAP placement test for any reason is allowed one retest attempt in each developmental module area per semester. Students requesting a retest in a particular module will be charged a fee for each module in which a retest is desired. Fees are set annually by the College Board of Trustees. Once the student has paid for the retest, he or she may receive a retest during a regularly scheduled NC-DAP test session. Students will be placed in a course according to the better of the two test scores. Students are not allowed to retest to attempt to place out of a developmental class in which they are currently enrolled after the add/drop period has ended.
- III. If the question arises during the registration period and time for retesting is not available before registration closes, the student should register for the class indicated by the test scores and make immediate arrangements for retesting so that the class may be changed if necessary.
- IV. Random retesting should be avoided. A student on the borderline should not be encouraged to take higher-level classes unless there are extenuating circumstances. Cut-offs are placed low and the student who places within 10 percentile points may be deficient. This student should be forewarned that extra effort might be required to do well in that class.
- V. Advising and Counseling: During the advising or counseling process, some time should be devoted to the effect of developmental course work on the student's program. One or two courses can usually be worked in without lengthening the program unduly, but additional courses indicate deficiencies in basic skills that will require time to correct.
- VI. Students are either exempted from or placed into developmental courses based on cut-off scores determined by the North Carolina Community Colleges Developmental English/Reading and Math Redesign committees and approved by the North Carolina Community College Board of Trustees. Cut-off scores are evaluated on an annual basis.
- VII. Test scores are considered valid for a period of five years. When more than five years passes between the time of placement testing and enrollment in applicable course, the student should retest.

Students may waive the placement testing requirements under the following conditions:

- A. Documentation of acceptable SAT or ACT scores. To be enrolled directly into first level curriculum English or math course, students would need to have a score of 500 on the applicable (Writing or Critical Reading, and/or Math) portion of the SAT, or a minimum of 18 on ACT English or 22 on ACT Reading, or a minimum of 22 on ACT Mathematics. SAT and ACT examinations must have been taken within the last three years.
- B. Results of NC-DAP placement tests taken at another North Carolina Community College System institution, which have been taken within the preceding five years and meet Blue Ridge Community College scores, or equivalent, will also waive placement testing.
- C. Transfer credit (grade "C" or better) received from a regionally accredited institution for college-transferrable reading, math, and English courses will be accepted in lieu of placement testing. Development level courses may be considered for transfer credit if taken at a North Carolina Community College within the last three years. The student must submit an official transcript to receive transfer credit and to officially waive the need for placement testing. A maximum of 75% of the total semester credit hours in any program will be accepted in transfer.
- D. Effective fall semester 2016, students who have graduated from a North Carolina high school within the past five years, and who have an unweighted HS GPA of 2.6 or higher, and who have completed four high school math courses as outlined in Eligible 4th High School Math Courses for Multiple Measures, will be waived from placement testing. Students who use this method to waive developmental prerequisites for ENG 111 or any curriculum level math course and who subsequently receive a grade other than A, B, or C, will be allowed to take the placement exam for the appropriate subject, and based on the results of the placement exam, will be allowed to add appropriate developmental coursework to their program of study for financial aid purposes. Regardless of meeting

the above requirements, a student may opt to be placed using NC-DAP. A student may speak with an appropriate advisor, and if the advisor and student agrees, the student will be allowed to take the appropriate placement exam, the results of which will be used to determine which developmental courses a student may take as part of their program for financial aid purposes. All other financial aid policies, including those related to academic progress, continue to apply.

- E. For certificate programs without developmental prerequisites, testing will be waived. For certificate programs that have developmental prerequisites and/or courses with developmental prerequisites, NC-DAP placement testing is required.