

POLICY**ASSESSMENT FOR COLLEGE READINESS**

As part of its commitment to student success, Ridgewater College has developed a process to assess the reading, writing, and mathematics skills of new entering students, to develop minimum assessment standards for access to the college-level curriculum, and to maintain a set of developmental education courses to bring students with inadequate skills to the minimum standard.

Adherence to this policy offers many benefits to students:

1. Supports student access and success by ensuring they have to develop skills to compete in the college level curriculum;
2. Increases success in college level courses, resulting in improvement in persistence and graduation rates;
3. Eases transfer among MnSCU institutions since a single, portable assessment method will be in place at all MnSCU institutions;
4. Assures that the integrity of the college-level curriculum can be maintained by ensuring students enrolled in courses have achieved the prerequisite academic skill levels;
5. Allows development of seamless and successful transitions from high school to college. Explicit benchmarks for college readiness can be connected to high school graduation standards.

Ridgewater College requires all students to complete an incoming student assessment that includes basic measures of reading comprehension, writing, and mathematics. The College will use the assessment instrument required by Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Policy 3.3.

The incoming student assessment shall not be used to make decisions related to college admission.

History:

02.21.07 Adopted

PROCEDURES**ASSESSMENT FOR COLLEGE READINESS**

Students may be exempt from all or part of the incoming student assessment based on presentation of college or university transcript(s) showing evidence of adequate preparation or a high probability of success in the introductory college-level course for which a course placement score is required; or fulfillment of a college-level course in the area for which the course placement score is used. Students enrolling in non-credit continuing education or customized training are exempt. Also, students in Farm Business Management, Small Business Management, or Occupational Skills programs are exempt. In addition, students who present ACT scores on ACT subtests at or above the scores listed below may be exempt from the relevant portions of the New Student Assessment requirement if their ACT scores are from within three calendar years for reading and writing and two calendar years for mathematics, both being inclusive of the current calendar year.

Mathematics: Math subtest score – 24

English: English subtest score – 24

Reading: Reading subtest score – 24

Minimum Standards for Access to College-Level Courses

Students who score below Ridgewater College's minimum test standards must successfully complete appropriate developmental education through courses or other means before enrolling in selected college-level courses. Retesting is allowed under certain circumstances (see Ridgewater College Test Center Procedures).

Specification of reading-intensive courses to which minimum reading standards apply will be determined by Ridgewater College faculty.

Definitions

The following definitions are important to the interpretation of the Assessment for College Readiness Policy:

College level – courses offered by Ridgewater College numbered above 100 in the transfer division and above 1000 in the technical division, which count toward the credit requirements of a certificate, diploma, or associate degree.

Developmental education – courses numbered below 100 in the transfer division and below 1000 in the technical division, intended for students who do not meet minimum assessment standards. These courses do not count toward a certificate, diploma, or associate degree.

History:

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