

## Mid-Atlantic Christian University Academic Affairs Policy #9

SUBJECT: Placement and/or Remediation for English and Math

DATE: September 12, 2012

REVISED: August 12, 2013, 2/10/16, 1/11/17, 3/19, 2/2020

NEXT SCHEDULED REVIEW: Even number years in February

APPROVED BY BOARD OF TRUSTEES: May 2019

Policy for: Academic Affairs Office and Faculty

Procedure for: Registrar's Office and Advisors

Authorized by: VP Academic Affairs

Issued by: Board of Trustees

### I. Purpose

This policy serves two functions. First, it seeks to establish guidelines to help determine that students have the "ability to benefit" from an education at MACU. Second, it seeks to reward students who have already attained mastery of certain subjects.

### II. Policy

Upon receiving official scores from the appropriate testing service a student will be placed into the appropriate level course or be granted academic credit.

English:

SAT ERW	ACT (English+Reading)	Advanced Placement (Language)	GED® (English Section)	Placement Into the Following Course	Credit Awarded
460 and below	32 and below		164 and below	Foundations of English Lab (ENGL 010) concurrent with ENGL 101	none
470-630	33-54			English 101	none
640-680	55-61			English 102	English 101

690 and above	63 and above	4 or 5		Exempt	English 101, 102
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Math

SAT Math	ACT (Math)	ALEKS PPL	GED® (Math Section)	Placement Into the Following Course
480 and below	17 and below	0-45	164 and below	Math 010
490-530	18-21	46-60		Math 161
540-600	22-25	61-75		Math 151, 171
610 and above	26 and above	76-100		Math 181

1. If remedial course work was taken at an accredited institution of higher education and the student passed the course, he may be placed in EN 101 or MA 161.
2. Students not meeting minimum scores will automatically be placed in 0-level courses. Students without SAT or ACT test scores will automatically be put in 0-level courses.
3. Students automatically placed in a 0-level course will have the option of coming to campus (or online when available) and take a competency test to demonstrate academic ability and be placed in the appropriate 100-level course.
4. Curricular deficiencies must be satisfied within a student's first 24 hours of college-level coursework at MACU (excluding repeats, pass/fail and 0-level courses). Deficiencies not remediated during the specified time period will result in the student being academically suspended from MACU and have to remedy the deficiency before being allowed to return to MACU.
5. Students who do not have SAT or ACT scores to submit will automatically be placed in the Foundations of English Lab and Foundations of College Mathematics courses, but such placement may be challenged by taking a competency exam.

**The Competency Test used by MACU for English is the Asset test.**

Form B2 is used to challenge placement in a 0-level course. Form C2 is used at the conclusion of a 0-level course. The writing exam is 36 questions and students choose 1 of 3 essays to write. The exam has a 25-minute time limit.

**Scoring:**

- Writing – A raw score of 26 or more correct places the student in ENGL 101

## **The Competency Test used by MACU for Math is the A.L.E.K.S. PPL.**

The ALEKS PPL is comprised of a 3-step process, all completed online. First, an initial unproctored placement test, which is followed by the student completing a Prep and Learning Module, an individualized, self-paced online review. Third, the student comes to campus for a final proctored placement test, which is the only test that actually determines course placement.

### **Basic studies repeat exemption policy**

Students making a C- in a Basic Studies course must retake the course the next appropriate semester (as determined by the Director of Learning Enhancement Services) as part of their graduation requirement.

If the VPAA decides that it is appropriate to consider exemption for a particular student from retaking a Basic Studies course, the student will be asked to submit in writing the reasons that it would be in his or her best interest to be excused from the requirement to repeat the course. After evaluating the student's written request and after conferring with the Foundations courses instructors, the VPAA may grant an exemption providing the student meets conditions determined by the VPAA and Basic Studies instructor. The student and VPAA will sign an agreement that if the student does not meet the stated conditions, he or she will enroll in the designated basic course(s) the next appropriate semester.

### **Ability to Benefit**

In the November/December 2004 issue of *The ABHE Symposium* there was an article "Ability to Benefit." It stated that schools have "a responsibility to ensure that students admitted to their programs . . . actually have the 'ability to benefit' from the programs."

We use the Asset Program tests B2 and C2 for our competency test for English. According to this article we can continue doing so with awareness of the "ability to benefit" passing scores. At <http://74.200.198.244/asset/atb.html> (last accessed March 14, 2013), a list is published that states the scores required for a student to have the "ability to benefit" from higher education.

The following are the approved passing scale scores for Asset B2 and C2 "ability to benefit:"

	Scaled <u>Score</u>	Raw <u>Score</u>	MACU <u>Raw Score</u>
B2			
• Writing	35	20	(26)
C2			

- Writing            35                    18/19                    (25)

All of these scores are below our required scores for competency.

For Math placement, the scores cut-offs are recommended by the assessment provider.

### III. Procedure

After an applicant to MACU has been accepted and the applicant's file is transferred to the Academic Affairs office, the AA office personnel will evaluate testing results and determine placement.

The student and the student's academic advisor will be notified via a written document of placement requirements prior to the initial registration of the new student.

In the event that an online student is required to take a developmental course, and there is not a developmental course offered by MACU, the online student must take the equivalent another college or university (most likely a community college).

### IV. Published: *MACU Academic Catalog, Faculty Handbook*

### V. Reason for Revision

### VI. Appendices