

POLICY NAME:	902.01: Institutional Effectiveness: Placement Testing
EFFECTIVE:	03-24-05
SUPERSEDES:	902.01 issued 08-28-03; 10-28-99; 01-28-99; 1994
SOURCE:	
CROSS REFERENCE:	Policy 802.01

1. Mandatory Assessment and Placement

Each institution in the Alabama Community College System shall require a comprehensive assessment of students upon admission to the institution and prior to enrollment in associate degree, diploma, or certificate programs. Students shall not be allowed to enroll for more than four credit hours or eight weekly contact hours before being assessed with a comprehensive assessment instrument.

2. Assessment Instrument

Institutions shall use either the ACT/ASSET written assessment instrument or the COMPASS computerized assessment instrument. System institutions shall implement COMPASS computerized assessment by the Fall Semester 2002-2003.

3. Exemptions

The following students are exempt from the assessment requirement: any student scoring 480 or above on the SAT I verbal and 480 or above on the SAT I math, and 20 or above on the ACT English and math who enroll in a System institution within three years of high school graduation; students who have an associate degree or higher; and students who transfer degree-creditable college-level English or mathematics courses with a grade of "C" or better; senior citizens, undeclared, and other non-award seeking majors who are taking classes for vocational reasons only; students in certain short certificate programs having no English or mathematics requirements; students who have completed required developmental coursework at another Alabama Community College System institution within the last three years; audit students; students who can provide documentation of assessment (COMPASS or ASSET) within the last three years; and transient students. Dually enrolled high school students in English or math may be exempted from the assessment requirements.

4. Placement Counseling

Each institution is required to provide a written assessment, an individualized education plan, and appropriate guidance and counseling to any student who scores below the institution's minimum cut score. The requirements for the standard minimum cut scores for the System shall be set forth in guidelines established by the Chancellor.

5. Evaluation

All institutions shall submit data to ACT on a term-by-term basis to validate the accuracy of the assessment and placement process.