

**TITLE 133  
PROCEDURAL RULE  
WEST VIRGINIA HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY COMMISSION**

**SERIES 21  
FRESHMAN ASSESSMENT AND PLACEMENT STANDARDS**

**Section 1. GENERAL**

- 1.1 Scope - This policy establishes freshman assessment and placement standards for institutions in assignment to initial credit-bearing courses in mathematics and English.
- 1.2 Authority - West Virginia Code § 18B-1B-4
- 1.3 Filing Date - July 2, 2002
- 1.4 Effective Date - August 1, 2002

**Section 2. POLICY**

- 2.1 The policy, *Freshman Assessment and Placement Standards*, for students in West Virginia public colleges and universities was developed to assure the integrity of associate and baccalaureate degrees, to increase the retention and graduation rates of students, and to encourage high school students to improve their academic preparation for college. The standards for freshman assessment and placement are designed to establish uniform procedures for the placement of students in credit-bearing courses in mathematics and English which can be applied toward an undergraduate academic degree.

**Section 3. MATHEMATICS**

- 3.1 Students may not enroll at any two-year or four-year institution in West Virginia public colleges and universities in a mathematics course which is designed to be applied toward a baccalaureate degree, an associate of arts (A.A.) degree, an associate of science (A.S.), an associate of applied science (A.A.S.) degree at a four-year college or university or an A.A., A.S. or A.A.S. degree at a community college unless the minimum score prescribed below is earned on one of the following tests:
  - 3.1.1 A score of 19 on the mathematics section of the American College Testing Program's ACT Assessment Test.
  - 3.1.2 A score of 460 on the quantitative portion of the College Board's Scholastic Assessment (SAT-1).

- 3.1.3 A scaled score of 40 on the numerical test *and* 38 on the elementary algebra test of the American College Testing Program's Assessment of Skills for Successful Entry and Transfer (ASSET).
- 3.1.4 A scaled score of 59 on the pre-algebra test and a scaled score of 36 on the algebra test of the American College Testing Program's Computerized Adaptive Placement Assessment and Support System (COMPASS).
- 3.1.5 A scaled score of 85 on the arithmetic test and 84 on the elementary algebra test of the College Board's ACCUPLACER Testing System.
- 3.2 Students not meeting this standard must successfully complete a program or programs in developmental (pre-college level) mathematics in order to be placed in mathematics courses which count toward a baccalaureate degree, an A.A. degree, an A.S. degree, or an A.A.S. degree. Institutions that do not offer developmental courses may require students to complete such courses at another institution or design an equivalent program of remediation with approval of the Higher Education Policy Commission Chancellor, as a pre-requisite to freshman placement.
- 3.3 A student having met the placement standard for enrollment in a credit-bearing course in mathematics on transfer to another West Virginia state college or university shall be deemed to have met the placement standard at the receiving institution and shall not be required to enroll in a developmental course in mathematics. The assessment measure and score by which the student met the placement standard in mathematics shall be recorded on the student's transcript.

#### **Section 4. ENGLISH COMPOSITION**

- 4.1 Students may not enroll at any two-year or four-year institution in West Virginia public colleges and universities in an English composition course which is designed to be applied toward a baccalaureate degree, an A.A. degree, an A.S. degree, or an A.A.S. degree at a four-year college or university or an A.A., A.S, or A.A.S. degree at a community college unless the minimum score prescribed below is earned on one of the following tests:
  - 4.1.1 A score of 18 on the English section of the ACT.
  - 4.1.2 A score of 450 on the verbal portion of the SAT-1.
  - 4.1.3 A scaled score of 38 on the writing skills test of the ASSET.
  - 4.1.4 A scaled score of 71 on the English Skills test of the American College Testing Program's Computerized Adaptive Placement Assessment and Support System (COMPASS).
  - 4.1.5 A scaled score of 88 on the Sentence Skills test of the College Board's ACCUPLACER Testing System.
  - 4.1.6 Satisfactory performance on a writing sample administered by each institution.

- 4.2 Students not meeting this standard must successfully complete a program or programs in developmental (pre-college level) English composition in order to be placed in English composition courses which count toward a baccalaureate degree, an A.A. degree, an A.S. degree, or an A.A.S. degree. Institutions that do not offer developmental courses may require students to complete such courses at another institution or design an equivalent program of remediation with approval of the Higher Education Policy Commission Chancellor as a pre-requisite to freshman placement.
- 4.3 A student having met the placement standard for enrollment in a credit-bearing course in English on transfer to another West Virginia state college or university shall be deemed to have met the placement standard at the receiving institution and shall not be required to enroll in a developmental course in English. The assessment measure and score by which the student met the placement standard in English shall be recorded on the student's transcript.

## **Section 5. READING**

- 5.1 Students scoring 17 on the reading section of the ACT, 420 or above on the verbal section of the SAT-1, 36 on the reading skills test of the ASSET, 30 percentile above on the Nelson-Denny Reading Test, 75 on the reading test of the American College Testing Program's Computerized Adaptive Placement Assessment and Support System (COMPASS), or 79 on the Reading Comprehensive test of the College Board's ACCUPLACER Testing System will be considered to have met minimal reading skill requirements at those institutions which have developmental programs in reading.
- 5.2 Institutions in the state higher education system are encouraged to provide assistance for students who do not meet the standard and who are enrolled in a program leading to an associate or bachelor's degree.
- 5.3 A student having met the placement standard in reading on transfer to another West Virginia state college or university shall be deemed to have met the placement standard at the receiving institution and shall not be required to enroll in a developmental course in reading. The assessment measure and score by which the student met the placement standard in reading shall be recorded on the student's transcript.