

The UAF Faculty Senate passed the following at Meeting #155 on December 8, 2008:

**MOTION:**

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The Student Academic Development and Achievement Committee of the Faculty Senate moves to amend the Mandatory Placement Policy (passed at Senate meeting #137 on May 1, 2006) to read:

CAPS - Addition

[[ ]] – Deletion

**Mandatory Placement**

Students who do not meet basic skills standards in reading, writing, and mathematics must complete appropriate Developmental Education course instruction. Such students may not enroll in 100-level or above courses that depend on these skills until they have satisfactorily met the exit criteria of the appropriate Developmental Education course(s).

Students without appropriate standardized test scores (ACT /SAT/ COMPASS / ASSET / ACCUPLACER), Advanced Placement credits, transfer credits, or prerequisite coursework must have UAF-approved placement test scores prior to registering for classes their first semester at UAF. Students may not enroll in classes unless they meet the placement requirements. Placement into appropriate developmental or core classes must be done with the help of an advisor. Students who enroll in a course without meeting the requirements will be withdrawn from the course by faculty initiated withdrawal.

For placement into any developmental math course, or any course satisfying core math requirements, prerequisite courses and/or placement exams must be taken within one calendar year prior to commencement of the course.

**FOR PLACEMENT INTO ENGLISH F111X OR ANY DEVELOPMENTAL ENGLISH COURSE, STUDENTS MUST ALSO HAVE A SCORED WRITING SAMPLE SUCH AS AN SAT OR ACT WRITING SAMPLE, OR A UAF-GENERATED WRITING SAMPLE GIVEN ALONG WITH ASSET, COMPASS, OR ACCUPLACER OR OTHER PLACEMENT TESTS.**

Students may not enroll in Perspectives on the Human Condition courses unless they meet the placement requirements for English F111X (including reading). Students may not enroll in core science classes unless they have placement at DEVM F105 or above and placement into English F111X.

The UAF Faculty Senate reiterates its requirement that financial support for academic resources to assist mandatory placement of students at UAF be increased to an adequate level prior to implementation.

EFFECTIVE: Fall 2009

**RATIONALE:** There is agreement across the English/ DEVE faculty that the best, most fine-tuned method for placement into freshman-level writing classes must involve trained evaluation of a writing sample. While student placement into English F111X or DEVE classes based on ACT, SAT, Compass, or Accuplacer scores will allow for more accurate placement of students than no placement, it leaves out the writing sample, a significant measure of student ability. For the last twenty years, the rural campuses have used a faculty-designed writing sample and rubric to place their students into English or DEVE classes. That this is a more effective placement, combining a standardized test with a writing sample, is supported by the higher success rate of rural students placed with this method compared to Fairbanks students placed by test scores alone or (until this fall semester) self-placed.

We are proposing adopting the writing sample and rubric used on the rural campuses for evaluation of entering freshmen who don't take ACT or SAT to provide more accurate evaluation of their writing skills and more effective placement into English F111X or DEVE classes.

We further recommend using the writing portion of the SAT or ACT (both of which are hand scored, not computer scored) for writing placement of students who take those tests. Students who place below the English F111X cutoff range can further test using the writing sample.

Students who don't have ACT or SAT scores will be notified that they need to submit a proctored writing sample.

Students will be asked to write for 20 minutes on a standard question without computer support (so that a student's spelling and sentence style will be unaffected by spell-check or grammar-check). This can be done at the Fairbanks campus Testing Services or can be submitted electronically, scanned or faxed from a proctored location such as a library or a school.

Writing samples will be scored by experienced faculty. Scored samples will be added to the student's placement file and scores will be added to the student's record. Students whose writing sample score indicates placement into English F111X will be placed in that class, after consultation with an advisor. Students may also be referred to DEV support classes such as DEVE F068 or DEVS F105 (Reading).

The Student Academic Development and Achievement committee will work with the Department of Developmental Education, the English Department, and other affected departments and committees to develop guidelines for enforcement of placement.

Marsha Joun      12/10/2008  
President, UAF Faculty Senate      Date

APPROVAL: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chancellor's Office

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

DISAPPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chancellor's Office

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_