

6.4.4 Placement Testing

Last Revised: May 2021

Policy: Piedmont Community College (PCC) requires students seeking admission to associate degree or appropriate diploma and certificate programs to demonstrate proficiency in mathematics and English.

Purpose/Definitions: The purpose of this policy is to ensure each student has the basic skills required for each course and that every student has an “opportunity to succeed” in their educational programs.

Approval Authority/Monitoring Authority: Piedmont Community College’s Board of Trustees has approval authority for this policy. The Vice President, Instruction and the Vice President, Student Development have monitoring authority for this policy.

Procedure:

Section 1: Placement Test Exemption

- 1.1. Students may be required to show proficiency in mathematics, and English by:
 - 1.1.1. Graduating from a U.S. high school with a 2.2 or greater unweighted valid GPA (see Exhibit 6.4.4.1);
 - 1.1.2. Demonstrating reading, writing, and mathematics proficiency on the SAT or ACT (see Exhibit 6.4.4.1);
 - 1.1.3. Taking the State Board approved placement test for mathematics, and English and scoring at College-level within the last five years; or
 - 1.1.4. Completing high school equivalency testing with appropriate scores (see Exhibit 6.4.4.1);
 - 1.1.5. Having acceptable Advanced Placement (AP) credits for required English and mathematics courses;
 - 1.1.6. Providing evidence of previous attendance at an accredited college or university. Students successfully completing college level courses in English and/or mathematics may be exempted from the admissions placement tests.

Section 2: Placement Test Requirements

2.1. Students who do not show proficiency in one or more of the areas (mathematics and English) must take one semester of transition courses before enrolling in college-level courses.

2.1.1. The following are reasons when a placement test would be required:

2.1.1.1. No valid GPA from a US high school

2.1.1.2. Completion of high school equivalency test prior to 2014 or scores fall below the cut-off (see Exhibit 6.4.4.1)

2.1.1.3. Graduating from a foreign high school

Legal Citation: N/A

History: Effective October 1988; Revised October 2001, February 2012, April 2014, May 2021

Exhibit 6.4.4.1

Reinforced Instruction for Student Excellence (RISE) Placement Guide by Measure

High School Measures			
HS GPA	Placement Description	English Courses	Math Courses
< 2.2	Transition English and Math	ENG-002(CU) BSP-4002(BSP)	MAT-003(CU) BSP-4003(BSP)
2.2- 2.799	Gateway English and Math with a Co-requisite	ENG-111 + ENG-011	Gateway with Co-Req
≥ 2.8	Gateway English and Math without a Co-requisite	ENG-111	Only Gateway Only

SAT*					
Pre-December 2011		January 2012 - February 2016		March 2016 - Present	
Reading	510 or higher	Critical Reading	500 or higher	Evidence-Based Reading & Writing 480 or higher	
Writing	510 or higher	English	500 or higher		
Mathematics	510 or higher	Mathematics	500 or higher	Mathematics	530 or higher

ACT**					
Pre-December 2011		January 2012 - February 2014		March 2014 – Present	
				Scores	Course Placement
English	22 or higher	English	18 or higher	English	16-17 - ENG-111 + ENG-011 18 or higher - ENG-111 Only
Reading	22 or higher	Reading	21 or higher	Reading	20-21 - ENG-111 + ENG-011 22 or higher - ENG-111 Only
Mathematics	22 or higher	Mathematics	22 or higher	Mathematics	20-21 - Math with Co-req 22 or higher - Math Only

General Education Development (GED)		
Test	Validity Date	Passing Score
Mathematical Reasoning	1/1/2014 to Present	170 or higher on all tests
Reading Through Language Arts		
Social Studies		
Science		

High School Equivalency Test (HiSET)		
Test	Validity Date	Passing Score
Language Arts-Reading	1/1/2014 to Present	15 or higher on all subject tests, with a minimum of 4 on the Essay
Language Arts-Writing Essay		
Mathematics		
Science Social Studies		

RISE Placement Tests			
Test	Validity Date	Passing Score	Course Eligibility
RISE English Tier 1	10/1/2018 to Present	75 or higher	ENG-111 + ENG-011
RISE English Tier 2	10/1/2018 to Present	75 or higher	ENG-111 Only
RISE Math Tier 1	10/1/2018 to Present	75 or higher	MAT-110; MAT-143 + MAT-043; MAT-152 + MAT-052
RISE Math Tier 2	10/1/2018 to Present	75 or higher	MAT-110; MAT-143; MAT-152; MAT-171 + MAT-071; MAT-121 + MAT-021
RISE Math Tier 3	10/1/2018 to Present	75 or higher	higher Any Gateway Math without a Co-requisite

Previous Developmental Coursework			
Development Education	Multiple Measures	RISE	Course Eligibility
ENG-070 & RED-070 or ENG-075	DRE-096	--	ENG-002 or BSP-4002
ENG-080 & RED-080 or ENG-085	DRE-097	ENG-002, grade of P1	ENG-111 + ENG-011
ENG-090 & RED-090 or ENG-095	DRE-098	ENG-002, grade of P2	ENG-111 Only
MAT-060	DMA-010, 020, 030	MAT-003, grade of P1	MAT-110 Only
MAT-060 ENG-080 & RED-080 or ENG-085	DMA-010, 020, 030 DRE-097	MAT-003, grade of P1 ENG-002, grade of P1	MAT-143 + MAT-043 MAT-152 + MAT-052
MAT-070 ENG-080 & RED 080 or ENG 085***	DMA-010, 020, 030, 040, 050 DRE-097***	MAT-003, grade of P2 ENG-002, grade of P1***	MAT-110 Only MAT-143 Only MAT-152 Only MAT-121 + MAT-021 MAT-171 + MAT-071
MAT-080	DMA-010, 020, 030, 040, 050, 060, 070, 080	MAT-003, grade of P3	Gateway Math Only

*Passing scores on the SAT allows students to register for gateway English or Math courses without a Co-Requisite required.

**Passing scores for the ACT prior to March 2014 allows students to register for gateway English or Math courses without a Co-Requisite required.

***English requirements relate only the MAT-143 and MAT-152. MAT-121 and MAT-171 only have math prerequisites. For placement into MAT-271, the direct placement policy applies. See "Additional Course Information" in the NCCCS Combined Course Library (CCL)