



Developmental Education Policies

Are approved assessment instruments identified? If so, which assessments are used or allowed? Are uniform cut scores identified? If so, what are the cut scores for these common assessments?

Filters:

April 2021

The cut scores presented in this resource are the lowest scores a student can receive on an assessment to be considered college-ready. An asterisk indicates that the state uses a subject area test score for the SAT. “SAT (new)” refers to scores received on the SAT administered after March 2016. “SAT (old)” refers to scores received on the SAT administered prior to March 2016. The COMPASS assessment is no longer administered; however, many states and systems still accept COMPASS scores received within a certain time period.

50-State Comparisons on each data point are [here](#).

STATE	Entity	Are approved assessment instruments identified? If so, which assessments are used or allowed?	Are uniform cut scores identified? If so, what are the cut scores for these common assessments? ACT, ACCUPLACER, COMPASS, SAT	Source
Alabama	Alabama Community College System Board of Trustees	No policy identified.	No policy identified.	
Alaska	Board of Regents of the University of Alaska System	No policy identified.	No policy identified.	

STATE	Entity	Are approved assessment instruments identified? If so, which assessments are used or allowed?	Are uniform cut scores identified? If so, what are the cut scores for these common assessments? ACT, ACCUPLACER, COMPASS, SAT	Source
Arizona	Arizona Board of Regents	No policy identified.	No policy identified.	
Arkansas	Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board	Yes. Approved assessments include: ACT.	Math: ACT - 22 English: ACT - 18	Coordinating Board Policy for Student Placement into General Education Core Courses (3.08) and College and Program Admissions And Student Ability to Benefit (4.05)
California	California State University Board of Trustees	No. CSU shall establish systemwide placement standards. However, a public facing website identifies cut scores for the ACT and SAT that may require enrollment in the Early Start Program.	No policy identified.	Executive Order 1110
	Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges	No. The Board of Governors must establish a common assessment system, to be used as one of multiple measures.	No policy identified.	Cal. Educ. Code § 78213

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Colorado	Colorado Commission on Higher Education	Yes. Approved assessments include: SAT, ACT, Community College Placement Test, ACCUPLACER, and the GED.	Colleges may adopt lower cut scores, but may not adopt higher scores. Cut scores are not reflective of the level of readiness for college algebra or higher, or intermediate writing. Math: ACT - 19 ACCUPLACER (classic) - 61 SAT (new) - 500 SAT (old) - 460 English: ACT - 18 ACCUPLACER (classic) - 80 on reading comprehension and/or 95 on sentence skills SAT (new) - 470 SAT (old) - 430	Section I Part E, Developmental Education, 4.00
Connecticut	Connecticut State University System	No policy identified.	No policy identified.	
	Board of Regents of the Connecticut State Colleges and University System	No. Institutions may administer the ACCUPLACER test.	No policy identified.	Board Policy 1.9 Community College Suspension of Placement Policy
Delaware		No policy identified.	No policy identified.	
District of Columbia		No policy identified.	No policy identified.	

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Florida	State Board of Education and Board of Governors	Yes. Approved assessments include: ACT, ACCUPLACER, SAT, and Florida Postsecondary Readiness Test.	<p>Math: ACT - 19 Next-Generation ACCUPLACER, Quantitative Reasoning, Algebra, and Statistics - 242 SAT - 24</p> <p>English: ACT, English - 17 ACT, reading - 19 Next-Generation ACCUPLACER, reading, writing - 245 SAT, reading test - 24 SAT, writing and language test - 25</p>	Fla. Admin. Code Ann R. 6A-10.0315
	Florida State University System Board of Governors	Yes. Approved assessments include: ACT, ACCUPLACER, SAT, and Florida Postsecondary Readiness Test.	<p>Math: ACT - 19 Next-Generation ACCUPLACER, Quantitative Reasoning, Algebra, and Statistics - 242 SAT - 24</p> <p>English: ACT, English - 17 ACT, reading - 19 Next-Generation ACCUPLACER, reading, writing - 245 SAT, reading test - 24 SAT, writing and language test - 25</p>	Board Regulations Chapter 6.008 Postsecondary College-Level Preparatory Testing, Placement, and Instruction for State Universities

STATE	Entity	Are approved assessment instruments identified? If so, which assessments are used or allowed?	Are uniform cut scores identified? If so, what are the cut scores for these common assessments? ACT, ACCUPLACER, COMPASS, SAT	Source
	Florida State Board of Education	Yes, including: ACT, ACCUPLACER, SAT, and Florida Postsecondary Readiness Test.	<p>Math: ACT - 19 Next-Generation ACCUPLACER, Quantitative Reasoning, Algebra, and Statistics - 242 SAT - 24</p> <p>English: ACT, English - 17 ACT, reading - 19 Next-Generation ACCUPLACER, reading, writing - 245 SAT, reading test - 24 SAT, writing and language test - 25</p>	State Board of Education Rule 6A-10.0315
Georgia	University System of Georgia Board of Regents	Yes. Approved assessments include: ACT, SAT (old and new), Classic Accuplacer, and Next Generation Accuplacer.	<p>Institutions may set higher scores.</p> <p>Math: ACT - 17 SAT (old) - 400 SAT (new) - 440 Classic Accuplacer Elementary Algebra - 67 Next-Generation Quantitative Reasoning, Algebra, and Statistics Test - 258</p> <p>Reading/Writing: ACT English or Reading - 17 SAT (old) Critical Reading - 430 SAT (new) Evidence-Based Reading and Writing - 480 Classic Accuplacer Reading Comprehension 61 and WritePlacer 4 Next-Generation Reading Comprehension 237 and WritePlacer 4</p>	Academic and Student Affairs Handbook 2.9.1.2 Evaluation for Learning Support Placement

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	State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia	Yes. Approved assessments include: ACT, SAT, ELA Milestones, GED, Classic ACCUPLACER, and ACCUPLACER NexGen.	Cut scores are provided for degree programs and diploma programs and can be found in state board procedure.	State Board Policy: 6.2.1p.a2
Hawaii		No policy identified.	No policy identified.	
Idaho	Idaho State Board of Education	No. ACT, SAT or other diagnostic placement tests are determined by the institution.	No policy identified.	Governing Policies and Procedures III.S and III.Q
Illinois	Illinois Board of Higher Education	No.	No policy identified. Colleges are encouraged to use scores set forth in recommendations approved by the Illinois Council of Community College Presidents.	110 Ill. Comp. Stat. Ann. 175/100-15
Indiana		No policy identified.	No policy identified.	
Iowa		No policy identified.	No policy identified.	
Kansas	Kansas Board of Regents	Yes. The ACCUPLACER is the recommended assessment exam. Approved assessments include: ACT, ACCUPLACER, SAT, and the GED.	Math: ACCUPLACER, quantitative reasoning, algebra and statistics - 250 English: ACCUPLACER, reading and writing - 255	2018 Placement Assessment Guidelines
Kentucky	Kentucky Administrative Regulations	No policy identified.	No policy identified.	

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	Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education	Yes. Approved assessments include: ACT, SAT, KY Online Testing, GED, and ALEKS.	<p>Math: ACT - 19 SAT - 500</p> <p>English: ACT - 18 SAT - 480 on evidence based reading and writing or 25 on the writing and language test</p> <p>Reading: ACT - 20 SAT - 480 on evidence based reading and writing or 25 on reading test</p>	Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education College Readiness Indicators, Beginning 2019-20
	Kentucky Community and Technical College System	Yes. Approved assessments include: ACT, ACCUPLACER, ALEKS, EdReady, GED, GPA, KY Online Testing, SAT, TABE-A and Wonderlic.	<p>Math: ACT - 19 SAT - 500</p> <p>English: ACT - 18 SAT - 480</p> <p>Reading: ACT - 20 SAT - 480 on evidence based reading and writing or 25 on reading test</p>	KCTCS Assessment and Placement Policy 4.13

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Louisiana	Louisiana Board of Regents	Yes. Approved assessments include: ACT, ACCUPLACER, ASPIRE, EOC, Pre-ACT, Pre-SAT, and SAT.	<p>Cut score for college algebra is higher than the score for college math. Cut score included here is for college math.</p> <p>Math: ACT - 19 ACCUPLACER, elementary algebra - 65 SAT - 510</p> <p>English: ACT - 18 ACCUPLACER, sentence skills - 86 SAT - 500</p>	Board of Regents Academic Affairs Policy 2.18
Maine		No policy identified.	No policy identified.	
Maryland		No policy identified.	No policy identified.	
Massachusetts	Massachusetts Department of Higher Education, Board of Higher Education	Yes, including: Accuplacer.	<p>Math: H.S. GPA - 2.7 Accuplacer - 262 (Quantitative Reasoning and Statistics Math Pathways), 268 (Calculus Math Pathways)</p> <p>English: H.S. GPA - 2.7 SAT - 500-600 Accuplacer - 245-259</p>	Board Policy No. AAC 19-08 and 19-23
Michigan		No policy identified.	No policy identified.	

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Minnesota	Board of Trustees of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities	Yes. The instrument are outlined in System Procedures. The ACCUPLACER is the designated instrument, however students may present an ACT score.	<p>Math: SAT - 530 ACT - 22 ACCUPLACER, elementary algebra - 76 ACCUPLACER, college math - 50</p> <p>Reading and Writing: SAT - 480 ACT, English - 18 ACT, reading - 21 ACCUPLACER - 78</p>	System Procedure 3.3.1 Assessment for Course Placement
Mississippi	Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning Board of Trustees	A review of a student who does not meet admission standards will consider ACT scores, however ACT scores are not required. Equivalent SAT scores may be submitted.	<p>Students who score below the cut score will be encouraged to participate in the year long academic support program.</p> <p>ACT Composite - 16</p>	IHL Board Policies 602.B & 602.C
Missouri	Missouri Department of Higher Education and Coordinating Board	Yes, including ACT, SAT, Accuplacer, Asset, and Compass.	<p>Math: ACT - 22 COMPASS - 66 SAT - 510</p> <p>Reading: ACT - 18 COMPASS - 81 SAT - 360</p>	Coordinating Board for Higher Education Principles of Best Practices in Remedial Education, 9.2

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Montana	Board of Regents of Higher Education	Admission policy states that college readiness can be demonstrated through the following assessments: ACT and SAT.	Math: ACT - 22 SAT - 27.5* English: ACT - 18 SAT - 25*	Board of Regents Policy & Procedures Manual Section 301.1, Admission Requirements
Nebraska	Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education	No policy identified.	No policy identified.	None
Nevada	Nevada System of Higher Education Board of Regents	Yes. Approved assessments include: ACT, PARCC, SAT, and Smarter Balanced.	Math: ACT - 22 SAT (new) - 530 SAT (old) - 500 English: ACT, English - 18 ACT, ELA - 20 SAT (new) - 480 SAT (old) - 500	NSHE Board policy Title 4, Chapter 16, Section 1
New Hampshire		No policy identified.	No policy identified.	
New Jersey		No policy identified.	No policy identified.	
New Mexico		No policy identified.	No policy identified.	
New York	New York Community Colleges	No policy identified.	No policy identified.	

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	State University of New York Trustees	No policy identified.	No policy identified.	
	University Provost of CUNY	Yes. A Proficiency Index is used, which includes SAT, ACT, New York State Regents Exams, and overall H.S. GPA.	Math: SAT (new) - 530 ACT - 21 English: SAT - 480 ACT - 20	University Provost Memo, dated December 13, 2018, Changes in Remedial Assignment Practices and Academic Policy Brief OAA-19-01 dated September 4, 2019.
North Carolina	State Board of Community Colleges	Yes. The policy outlines an index of high school GPA and required assessment scores. Student with a GPA older than 5 years or assessment scores must take the approved assessment. The approved assessment is the NC DAP, administered using ACCUPLACER.	Cut scores are dependent on the high school GPA, and can be found in the NCCCS index.	NCCCS Policy, Multiple Measures for Placement, August 2016 and Student Services, Regulations and Policies
North Dakota	North Dakota University System	Yes. Approved assessments include: ACCUPLACER, ACT, ACT Aspire, ACT Plan, ALEKS, COMPASS, EdReady, MAA Maplesoft, Pearson, SAT, and Smarter Balanced.	Colleges and Universities are required to use math and English cut scores. Institutions may elect to use the science and reading scores included in the policy.	NDUS Procedures 402.1.2 Student Placement into College Courses
Ohio	Ohio State Statutes	No policy identified.	No policy identified.	

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	Ohio Presidents of State Higher Education Institutions	Yes. Approved assessments include: ACT, ACCUPLACER classic, ACCUPLACER Next Gen, GED, and SAT.	<p>The standards do not replace institutional placement policies. Institutions may not adopt higher scores, but may use lower scores.</p> <p>Math: ACT - 22 ACCUPLACER, classic - 55 ACCUPLACER, Next Gen quantitative reasoning or advanced algebra - 263 SAT (new) - 530</p> <p>English: ACT - 18 ACCUPLACER, classic - 88 on sentence skills or 5 on WritePlacer ACCUPLACER, Next Gen - 263 on writing or 5 on WritePlacer SAT (new) - 480</p> <p>Reading: ACT - 22 ACCUPLACER, classic - 80 ACCUPLACER, Next Gen = 250 SAT (new) - 480</p>	Uniform Statewide Standards for Remediation Free Status

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Oklahoma	Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education	Yes. Approved assessments include: ACT and SAT.	<p>Cut scores for science are included in the policy.</p> <p>Math: ACT - 19 SAT (new) - 530</p> <p>English: ACT - 19 SAT (new) - 480</p> <p>Reading: ACT - 19 SAT (new) - 480</p>	State Regents Academic Affairs Procedure 3.20
Oregon		No policy identified.	No policy identified.	
		No policy identified.	No policy identified.	
Pennsylvania		No policy identified.	No policy identified.	
Rhode Island		No policy identified.	No policy identified.	
		No policy identified.	No policy identified.	
South Carolina	South Carolina Commission on Higher Education	No. The policy states the technical colleges should develop common criteria for competencies based on common assessment instruments.	No policy identified.	Commission Policies on Developmental Education in South Carolina

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	South Carolina Technical College System	No. Each college should determine minimum placement criteria.	No policy identified.	State Board Procedure 3-2-101.1
South Dakota	South Dakota Board of Regents	Yes. Guidelines include an index score matrix that uses high school GPA and assessment scores. Approved assessments include: ACT, ACCUPLACER, SAT, and Smarter Balanced.	The placement index uses high school GPA alongside assessment score.	BOR Guideline 7.6: English and Mathematics Placement Guidelines
Tennessee	Tennessee Board of Regents	Yes. Approved assessments include: ACT, SAT, or other assessments.	Math: ACT - 19 SAT (new) - 500 Reading: ACT - 19 SAT (new) - 500	Board Policies, Learning Support: 2.03.00.02, Exhibit 2
Texas	Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board	Yes. The only approved assessment is the TSI Assessment offered by the College Board.	Cut scores for the TSI Assessment are included in the policy.	19 Tex. Admin. Code § 4.51 et. seq.
Utah		No policy identified.	No policy identified.	
Vermont		No policy identified.	No policy identified.	

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Virginia	Virginia Community College State Board	Yes. The policy includes an assessment index of high school GPA and high school coursework. Approved assessments include: ACT, GED, SAT, and the Virginia Placement Test.	Math: ACT - 22 SAT - 530 English: ACT - 18 SAT - 480	VCCS Student Development Services, Student Development, Placement, Section 6.4.0.2
Washington	Student Achievement Council	No policy identified.	No policy identified.	
West Virginia	West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission and the Council for Community and Technical College Education	Yes. Approved assessments include: SAT, ACT, ACCUPLACER, and other assessments or end-of-course exams as approved by the Chancellor.	Math: ACT - 19 ACCUPLACER - 76 on elementary algebra or 40 on college math SAT - 510 English: ACT - 18 ACCUPLACER (Next Generation) - 250 on writing SAT - 480 Reading: ACT - 17 SAT - 23* ACCUPLACER (Next Generation) - 252 on reading comprehension	W. Va. Code R. 133-21 et. seq., and W. Va. Code R. 135-21 et. seq.

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Wisconsin	University of Wisconsin System Board of Regents	Yes. For students who score below the system established college readiness levels, each institution has authority over assessments and criteria to determine course placement. Approved assessments include: ACT, SAT, and UW system placement test.	Cut scores vary across institutions.	Regent Policy Document 4-8 and University of Wisconsin System, Center for Placement Testing
Wyoming	University of Wyoming	Yes. Approved assessments include: ACT and SAT.	ACT composite - 21 SAT (new) composite - 1060	Admission of Students, UW Regulation 2-201