Policy

Students who have been admitted to an undergraduate degree program at Minnesota State University, Mankato and who need to fulfill General Education Goal Area 1, Part A are placed in a Composition course or course sequence based on their instructional needs. Course placements are made using students’ scores on the ACT, SAT, and/or Accuplacer Reading Comprehension Test. For international students who do not have English as their first language, course placements are made using the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), the International English Language Testing System (IELTS), the Accuplacer ESL Reading Test, and the Accuplacer WritePlacer.

Domestic Students
Domestic students whose scores are as follows enroll in ENG 101:
- ACT English score of 18 or above
- SAT Writing score of 440 or above
- SAT Writing and Language score of 26 or above
- SAT Evidence-Based Reading and Written score of 480 or above.

Students who have been admitted to the university without an ACT English or SAT Writing score take the Accuplacer Reading Comprehension Test to determine their Composition placement.

Students whose Accuplacer Reading Comprehension Test score is 78 or above enroll in ENG 101. Students whose Accuplacer Reading Comprehension Test score is below 78 enroll in a two-semester Composition course sequence: ENG 103 and ENG 104 OR ENG 100 and ENG 101. Domestic multilingual students have the additional sequential option of EAP 135 OR EAP 136 followed by ENG 101. Students must earn a C or better in the first course of their Composition sequence to enroll in the second course in the sequence.

International Students
International students who do not have English as their first language can enroll in English 101 with a Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) score of 89 or above (internet-based - iBT) or 575 or above (paper-based - PBT), or an International English Language Testing System (IELTS) score of 6.5 or above.

International students with TOEFL scores below 89 (iBT) or below 575 (PBT) or with an IELTS score below 6.5 must take both the Accuplacer ESL Reading Test and the Accuplacer WritePlacer.
International students with an Accuplacer Writeplacer score of 6 can enroll in English 101, and students with both an Accuplacer ESL Reading test score of 110 or higher AND an Accuplacer WritePlacer score of 5 can also enroll in English 101.

International students with either (1) an Accuplacer WritePlacer score below 5 or (2) an Accuplacer ESL Reading test score below 110 and an Accuplacer WritePlacer score of 4 or lower must take and pass EAP 136 with a grade of C before enrolling in English 101.

Exemptions
Students may be exempted from taking the Accuplacer Reading Comprehension Test based on documentation of:

1. passing Accuplacer Reading Comprehension Test scores taken at any college or university within the last three calendar years;
2. having an ACT English score of 17 and an ACT Writing Test Subscore between 8 and 12;
3. having an AP English Language and Composition test score of 3;
4. having a CLEP English composition and literature test score of 50 or above;
5. having a grade of “C” or higher in a domestic postsecondary non-developmental English course in which writing was a focus of instruction.

Students enrolled in courses at the university before June 1, 2010, are exempted from the policy.

Re-test
Students make take any of the Accuplacer tests a second time no sooner than two weeks after the first test.

Appeal Process
Students not meeting the requirement for enrollment in Composition stated above may request an exception to this policy. The request must be made in writing to the chair of the English department, and must include evidence that demonstrates readiness for college composition, such as a validated portfolio of work in composition.

Rationale

The purpose of this policy is to improve students’ success in college writing by assessing their readiness for Composition and by providing them with further preparation when necessary. Minnesota State, Mankato’s policy is based on Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Board Procedure 3.3.1, Assessment for Course Placement (http://www.minnstate.edu/board/procedure/303p1.html)