

TO: College Council
FROM: Sue Vaughn
DATE: October 1, 2014
SUBJECT: The Move to Accuplacer

On Monday, October 13, 2014 the assessment center will begin using AccuPlacer instead of Compass for all placement testing except for ENSL. On January 2 we expect to make the switch for ENSL testing as well. There are many advantages to Accuplacer, including:

- We can ask questions at various points in the tests to direct students toward the appropriate test, for example, if a student states that they never took an algebra test, they will be pointed to the arithmetic test.
- Multiple measures, using information from the responses to the questions and electronic data from CALPass for recent high school students, can be automatically applied. This will save counselor time for other conversations with incoming students.
- Accuplacer has components for writing samples, WritePlacer and WritePlacer ESL, that we will begin to use in January 2015. The samples are electronically scored. The company submits samples of the essays to be scored by real people and the correlation of the placements is at 97% (scores are within one placement level between to two methods of scoring).
- All of the scores can be fed automatically into SOATEST on Banner. Currently assessment staff must enter all scores manually.

The new cut scores have been placed into Banner and students registering for spring 2015 who have tested with Accuplacer will be placed based on the Accuplacer scores.

The Assessment Center staff will be offering at least one test session on the campus of each high school in our area, including the Delano schools.