Assessment and Placement Procedures for Composition Students at Parkland College

Parkland College is committed to placing students in appropriate courses in order to provide each student with the greatest chance of success. The Comprehensive Assessment Program (CAP) ensures that all entering students have the skills and knowledge required for success in college-level transfer and occupational courses. The key to accomplishing this goal is an assessment structure that determines academic skills which students bring and to match those skills with appropriate courses offered by the College. Students should be placed at a level which will challenge them but which is not beyond their reach. Accurate and proper placement is the goal of the placement program. CONSEQUENTLY, PLACEMENTS MADE THROUGH THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS ARE MANDATORY.

Methods of Assessment

- Review of credit already earned at accredited college/university, including Parkland
- Appropriate ACT or SAT scores
- Placement testing

Assessment of Writing Skills

1. **Assessment based on credits earned:**

   a. **Transfer credit**
   
   - The English and Critical Studies Department does not accept remedial course work in composition as transfer credit or as meeting the prerequisite for any prep ENG course, ENG 101, or ENG 106. **Students who took a remedial or developmental course at another college or university must take Parkland’s English placement test.**
   
   - Student who have earned a Bachelor’s degree from any fully accredited American college or university, regardless of specific course work, fulfill the ENG 101-102 degree requirement.
   
   - Student who have taken ENG 101 or its equivalent and received a grade of C or higher may register for ENG 102.

   b. **Parkland credit**
   
   - Students placed in a preparatory English composition class (ENG 098 or ENG 099) can satisfy the requirements for admission to college-level English composition by one of the following:
     
     1. writing a college-entry level essay at the completion of ENG 098 or ENG 099
     2. passing ENG 099 with a grade of A or B

   - Students who have taken ENG 101 and received a grade of C or higher may register for ENG 102.
• Students who have taken ESL 101 and received a grade of A may register for ENG 102 only with the ESL 101 teacher’s recommendation. The Director of Assessment has final approval.

2. **Assessment based on standardized test scores:**

   a. **ENG 101**
      • ACT test taken in or after October 1989:
         o 23 or higher ENG
         o 20, 21, 22 ENG AND 21 or higher COMP
      
      • ACT test taken before 1989:
         o 21 or higher ENG
         o 18, 19, 20 ENG AND 21 or higher COMP
      
      • SAT test taken in or after April 1995:
         o Verbal score of 570 or higher
      
      • SAT test taken before April 1995:
         o Verbal score of 490 or higher

   b. **ENG 106**
      • ACT test taken in or after October 1989:
         o 26 or higher ENG AND 26 or higher RDG
      
      • ACT test taken before October 1989:
         o 26 or higher ENG/RDG score is not required
      
      • SAT test taken in or after April 1995:
         o Verbal score of 630 or above
      
      • SAT test taken before April 1995:
         o Verbal score of 560 or above

3. **Assessment based on testing:**

   a. Parkland College uses COMPASS, a computerized-adaptive testing program, to place students in English (ENG) courses. The English placement test measures knowledge of punctuation, basic grammar and usage, sentence structure, and effective writing skills such as organization and style. The test includes a reading section to help determine placement in the appropriate English course.

   b. English placement scores can be used regardless of the time between testing and enrolling in an English course.

   c. Students who believe that the results of the English placement test do not accurately reflect their skills should retake the test. See retest guidelines on the following page.
Retest Procedures for English Placement

a. A student who places into ENG 099 and has scored 50 or more on the COMPASS English placement test is encouraged to write the ENG 101 placement essay.

b. If a student takes the ENG 101 placement essay and still places into ENG 099, the student may retake the ENG 101 placement essay once.

c. A student who places into ENG 098 or ENG 099 and scores below 50 on the COMPASS English placement test may:
   - retake the COMPASS English placement test after 48 hours
   - retest a second time after one semester since the date of the first retest

d. Each English placement is automatically reviewed the first week of class. The review is based on an in-class writing exercise assigned the first or second class meeting. The instructor submits recommendations for a change in placement to a faculty review committee, which makes the final placement decision.

e. An appeal process is available to students after the retest and review options have been pursued and additional evidence of ability can be presented. A student must see the Writing Assessment Coordinator for more information about the appeals policy.