

03/11/11

Progress on the Math Issues Committee proposed plan for Intermediate Algebra

Action	Status
<p>1. Math Issues Representatives will bring feedback/concerns from our colleges to Math Issues meetings regarding the four proposals which resulted from the discussions on Intermediate Algebra Placement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• All colleges will start Accuplacer with the Elementary Algebra (EA) subtest. An Arithmetic (AR) score should be available adaptively for students placing below Elementary Algebra.• To place into Intermediate Algebra, the entering Elementary Algebra (EA) sub-test score is between 54 and 66, system-wide.• To place out of Intermediate Algebra requires a score of 40 or higher in the College Level Math (CLM) sub-test of Accuplacer. This score will place students into some, but not all, courses above Intermediate Algebra in the system.• Alternative ways of placing out of Intermediate Algebra include a score of 550 or higher in the math portion of the SAT or an ACT score of 22 or higher. This score will place students into some, but not all, courses above Intermediate Algebra in the system.	Sub-test and cut-off policies have been implemented at all 12 colleges; degree of impact varies; some assessment has been conducted but more needs to be done.
<p>2. With assistance from campus Institutional Research, we propose that colleges affected by the proposed changes in the placement testing procedure do a simulation in spring 2008 to test the impact of the changes, i.e., determine the number of students who would be placed higher or lower if EA is used first and our proposed Accuplacer band is implemented. This data will impact directly on college scheduling and staffing needs.</p>	Completed.
<p>3. We will identify common student learning outcomes for Elementary Algebra and Intermediate Algebra.</p>	Completed.
<p>4. With facilitation from the System, Math Issues will initiate a dialogue with College Board in order to assess alignment between the Accuplacer and our student learning outcomes.</p>	To be addressed.
<p>5. We will investigate alternative assessment tools in addition to Accuplacer results and SAT mathematics scores to use in the placement process, such as CAPT scores, Credit by Exam scores, high school grades, and high school math courses successfully completed.</p>	ACT cut-off score recommendations submitted to Central Office, awaiting System approval; other tools still to be addressed.
<p>6. We will continue communication with MATYCONN, Math Basic Skills, CSU and UConn math faculty. (Note: MATYCONN is the Connecticut chapter of the American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges, AMATYC. Math Basic Skills comprises CCC, CSU, and UConn.)</p>	Ongoing. MATYCONN meets each semester, and Math Basic Skills meets monthly following Math Issues.
<p>7. We will identify approaches to make placement testing more effective. This will include investigating ways to refresh student algebra skills prior to taking Accuplacer, considering programs such as Accuplacer A+ and Western CT State University's Bridges Program and the work of the MAT Council, and implementing AMATYC's position statement regarding mathematics placement in order to provide a more holistic approach to placement.</p>	In progress; needs continual study/review.
<p>8. We will explore ways to disseminate information about "combination courses" and other innovations developed at sister colleges.</p>	To be addressed.

More specific information is detailed in Math Issues minutes available at www.matyconn.org.