

WESTERN NEBRASKA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Western Community College Area Board of Governors' Policy

TITLE:	Basic Skills Assessment
DIVISION:	Educational Services
CATEGORY:	Curriculum and Instruction
NUMBER:	BP-614
APPROVAL/DATE:	F. Lynne Klemke, President, WCCA Board of Governors Date: December 18, 2019

Purpose

This policy mandates that all students wishing to enroll in a diploma or associate degree program are assessed to ensure that the student possesses the basic skills requirements necessary to successfully complete the coursework.

Scope

This shall apply to all students enrolling in a diploma or associate degree program and concurrent enrollment students prior to enrolling in a credit-bearing course that has a pre-requisite or co-requisite.

Definitions

Co-requisite Course: A course that is either recommended or required to be taken at the same time as another course.

Developmental Skills: Courses that help students master academic skills in either reading, writing, math, and/or analytical skills that will assist the student to advance to upper-level coursework and beyond.

Prerequisite Course: A course that must be successfully completed before enrolling in a second, higher-level course. Prerequisite courses prepare a student to be successful in a related course. It is usually taught at a lower level and covers information, theories, skills, and vocabulary that are expected to be known and mastered before taking a higher-level course.

Policy

WNCC has a tradition of assessing student learning. As the College looks to the future, it seeks to improve academic achievement. As a part of the mission of the College, WNCC believes that the philosophy and purpose of assessing student academic achievement is to accomplish the following:

- improve student learning;
- involve all members of the College community and appropriate advisory committees;
- measure student learning in all phases of the academic program, but especially the competence of graduates; and
- implement quality improvement based on data collection, analysis, planning, and allocation of resources.

As part of WNCC’s commitment to student learning, all first-time undergraduate students who wish to enroll in credit-bearing coursework, which includes transfer math and English courses or any course with math, English, or reading prerequisites, must provide documentation of American College Testing (ACT), Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT), ACCUPLACER, Computer Adaptive Placement Assessment and Support System (COMPASS), or other approved assessment tools. If the student does not have scores from any of these assessments, or if the scores are not at the WNCC identified level for college readiness, then WNCC will require that the student enroll in the required pre-requisite or co-requisite coursework.

The Board charges the WNCC President and WNCC staff with developing and adhering to procedures and guidelines ensuring that each enrolled first-time undergraduate student who wishes to enroll in credit-bearing math and English courses or any course that has set pre-requisite and co-requisite requirements is:

- Assessed in mathematics, writing, and/or reading; and
- Advised to enroll in developmental skills classes during the first semester following a placement test, when assessment scores indicate inadequate college preparation in any or all of these areas.

Revising this Policy

This Board Policy supersedes any prior WNCC policy, procedure, guideline or handbook on this subject matter.

If statutory provisions, regulatory guidance, or court interpretations change or conflict with this Board Policy, the Board retains the right to revise accordingly and for the changes to take effect immediately.

Original Adoption Date (and Board of Governor’s Minutes Item Number): 2019

Revision Date (and Board of Governors’ Minutes Item Number):

Prior Policy Number:

Schedule for Review:

Divisions/Department Responsible for Review and Update:

Educational Services

Sponsoring Division/Department:

Educational Services

Repeal Date:

Cross Reference:

Procedure(s) for Policy:

PP-614 Prerequisites and Co-requisites

IG-614 Prerequisites and Co-requisite Exceptions

IG-615 Waiver Against Advising Advice

Related Policies/References: