



November 13, 2014

To: Placement Advisory Work Group

From: Vice Chancellors for Academic Affairs
Joni Onishi, Hawai'i Community College
Katy Ho, Honolulu Community College
Louise Pagotto, Kapi'olani Community College
James Dire, Kaua'i Community College
Mike Pecsok, Leeward Community College
John McKee, Maui College
Ardis Eschenberg, Windward Community College

RE: [System-wide project to pilot revised ACT Placement/Cut off Score for English 100/ESL 100 and other equivalent courses](#)

The purpose of this memo is to [establish a system-wide pilot project using the ACT writing placement/cut off score of 18 in the ACT English subject area for placement into English 100/ESL 100 and other equivalent courses](#) for all seven University of Hawaii community colleges.

[By policy](#), the UH Community Colleges have utilized a score of 22 in the English subject area or in both English and reading for placement at the [college](#) level.
[http://uhcc.hawaii.edu/OVPCC/APAPA/docs/Placement Advisory/2013 June Placement Clarification.pdf](http://uhcc.hawaii.edu/OVPCC/APAPA/docs/Placement_Advisory/2013_June_Placement_Clarification.pdf) The principle guiding placement score selection for the purposes of this memo [is](#) alignment with national benchmarking and best practice for student success in [college English](#).

According to ACT College Readiness Benchmarks, a score of 18 on the ACT English subject area test represents the level of achievement required for students to have a 50% chance of obtaining a B or higher or about a 75% chance of obtaining a C or higher in corresponding credit-bearing first-year college courses. (<http://www.act.org/solutions/college-career-readiness/college-readiness-benchmarks/>)

[ACT researched](#) national benchmarks [data suggests that a placement/](#) cut-off score of 18 on the ACT English subject area [is valid](#) for placement into English 100/[ESL 100 and other](#)

2444 Dole Street, Bachman 207
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822
Telephone: (808) 956-7038
Fax: (808) 956-5286

equivalent courses at UH Community Colleges. Accordingly, the UH Community Colleges system wide pilot project will commence effective January 1, 2015 for placement for Summer 2015 and Fall 2015 and run for a period of three years. The Vice Chancellor Academic Affairs at each college is responsible for establish college-level procedures and processes for record-keeping and implementation. The project will be re-evaluated in Fall 2019. The Office of the Vice President for Community Colleges will work with ACT Research Division to validate the placement/cut off scores during the pilot project period. If data indicate success rates equal to or greater than the ACT national data, placement using current Compass writing scores, or success rates of students entering from courses one level below, the score of 18 on the ACT English Subject area test will be accepted as a placement measure for the UH Community College system.

Revised November 18, 2014

Draft