

Meeting of the COMPASS Placement Advisory Working Group
Dole Street Conference Room and Remote Sites
October 22, 2009
3:00-4:30 pm

Suzette, Earl, Rick, Pam, Noreen, Stacy, Emily, Guy, Gail, Cheryl, WeiLing, Marilyn

Old Business/Updates

New Business

Gail's Compilation of Cut Scores: Redid placement scores; Math added experimental 97/98 to accelerate student progress using ALEKS. To show the totality of all the scores across the UHCC system. Cut scores show commonality (more than what people thought). Some AtD strategies are looking at mandating AtD students who are placed in Rem/Dev to take courses. Maui CC is drafting policy for mandatory testing & taking rem/dev in the first year.

RECOMMENDATION: Message to Rem/Dev White Paper Group: May be beneficial to have a discussion about what's happening in the remedial English and Math. In reading, SLOs appear to be similar. Could diagnostics be used to assist in the placement? Is it time to look at "levels below" as thresholds for cut-offs?

Action: Cheryl will send the URL that shows what is programmed in Banner.

https://www.sis.hawaii.edu/uhdad/bwckctlg.p_disp_cat_term_date

Status of Retesting on Demand at Maui and Kapi'olani: Give them a handout on what they can do to get help within 60 days. Build in short-term remediation & have it announced. Is there a stamina/attention span question? (If choose to do all tests at the same time, the order is set.)

UHWO: Prep workshops advertised prior to orientation & then open advising after placement advising. Some concerns about students who might struggle in the classes.

RECOMMENDATION: provide info in the acceptance letter that lists resources for preparing for the COMPASS. And in online orientation that is in preparation.

WORKLOAD: not an issue. At Kapi'olani, 145 retests out of roughly 2000 tests.

KCC: This sorts out to 119 individuals.

-20 students have taken the retest 3x or more.

-One student retook the Math portion 7 times.

RESULTS FROM MAUI

A total of 21 students (mostly in July and August; only 1 retested in Sept.) retook their COMPASS test prior to the 60-day waiting period in one or more areas:

- 15 retested in writing section: 4 placed in the same course, 9 placed one course higher, 2 placed two courses higher
- 2 retested in the reading section: 1 placed in the same course, 1 placed one course higher
- 9 retested in the math section: 2 placed in one course lower, 3 placed in the same course, 2 placed one course higher, 2 placed two courses higher

The following student comments explain why they wanted to retest or what they did between the first and second test.

- 8 studied suggested websites, TLC textbooks, and Chart Your Success on
 - the COMPASS
 - 7 rushed the first time
 - 4 did nothing
 - 1 didn't try the first time
 - 1 was confused with how to proofread
1. Of the 10 students (found two more) who studied between tests, 9 placed one to four courses higher and 1 placed one course lower
 2. Of the 4 students who did nothing, 2 placed in the same course, 2 placed one course higher
 3. Interesting enough, of the 7 students who said they rushed the first time, 5 placed one course higher, 2 placed two courses higher
 4. Of those who placed in higher courses, 6 students enrolled in the higher Eng/math course, 2 met the prerequisites to enroll in Psy100 and Acct 124, and 2 qualified to apply to the nursing program

Is 60-day wait period systemwide, yes but not enforceable.

Enforcing the two-year rule

Yes, Banner does check the dates and archives any COMPASS test date older than two years. At Leeward, the campus enforces a policy that prohibits students from continuing in the Math sequence. They are asked to take re-COMPASS. HawCC doesn't have a two-year rule for English. Math faculty recommend retaking COMPASS. Math faculty are considering asking for an 18-month period as the maximum shelf-life of a COMPASS score..

RECOMMENDATION: Do a study that looks at student success in Math courses, after 1-semester, 2-semester, 3-semester, 4+semesters away. Recommend that some other "brush up" mechanism be in place rather than retake a whole course.

Is it time to validate cut offs again. 10 courses for approx \$250 per college. Need to have enough data to make meaningful determinations.

Spring Meeting: March 18, 2010