

# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Office of the Senior Vice President and Chancellor for Community Colleges

November 14, 1997

TO: Provost Peter Dyer  
David Iha  
Peter Kessinger  
John Morton  
Barbara Polk  
Sandra Sakaguchi  
Clyde Sakamoto  
Angela Mixel

Acting Director

SUBJECT: System Wide Student Placement Testing

This Memorandum is intended to communicate the agreed-upon procedures concerning UHCC system wide student placement testing using the ACT COMPASS student assessment package. These agreements were reached following several years of discussions and evaluations involving various English and Mathematics faculty, Deans of Students, and Deans of Instruction.

Please inform your campus faculty and staff that the Provosts agree to implement the use of the ACT COMPASS tests in Mathematics, Reading and Writing for placement of students registering for the Fall 98 semester, which means that the test will be administered in Spring 98 to students registering for the fall term.

During the week of October 27 - 31, an ACT consultant from Clark College in Vancouver, Washington, with extensive experience in the installation and use of the COMPASS instruments, accompanied by John Muth from our office, visited all of our campuses to discuss the COMPASS placement testing with interested faculty and administrators. During these visits, a functioning copy of COMPASS was either set up or determined to be set up at each site, and general concerns and questions were covered by the consultant. These sessions appeared to be helpful to those who participated, and set the stage for faculty meetings the following week.

Meetings of the English and mathematics faculty were held during this past week and consensus was reached on the cut-off scores to be used for placement into Basic Skills, Regular College Courses, and Transfer Level Courses for the 1998-99 year. (See enclosure dated November 10, 1997.)

The English faculty meeting was held on Thursday, November 6, at the Community College Institutional Research office. Those in attendance included:

ETC:	Sarah Hodell;	Hawai'i:	Rosemary Burnett;
Honolulu:	Jan Petersen;	Kapi'olani:	Guy Nishimura and Linka Corbin-Mullikin;
Kauai:	not present;	Leeward:	Gail Levy and Frank Sherry;
Maui:	Suzette Robinson;	Windward:	Aileen Yim.

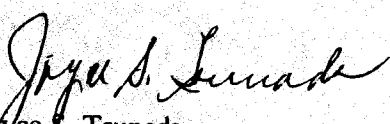
The math faculty meeting took place on Saturday, November 8, at Kapi'olani Community College as a part of a more general mathematics meeting of the Hawai'i Mathematical Association of Two Year Colleges (HIMATYC). There were actually teams of mathematics faculty in attendance from each campus, but the participating representatives were:

ETC:	Sarah Hodell;	Hawai'i:	Marilyn Bader and Jane Iida;
Honolulu:	Alice Bertram;	Kapi'olani:	Guy Nishimura and Andrew Pak;
Kauai:	Charlene Yoshida;	Leeward:	Jennie Thompson;
Maui:	Ann Arakawa;	Windward:	Jean Okumura.

The recommended cut-off scores to be used for Fall 1998, and Spring 1999 placement appear on the attached chart. It was agreed that English testing would include both Reading and Writing, with reading placement based upon the reading score and writing placement based upon a combined score from reading and writing; Campuses may set their own internal cut-off scores for courses not shown on the attached grids. We will gather data at the end of the first semester of use to begin our analysis of the appropriateness of the recommended scores for student placement, and with the assistance of ACT who will provide us with a variety of analyses, refine the placement recommendations for future use.

The COMPASS test is one of the U.S. Department of Education approved tests to determine ability to benefit for federal student financial assistance. The enclosed sheet from ACT spells out the scores and conditions which must be followed when the tests are used for that purpose.

If you have specific questions concerning the set up of the test materials or other details, please contact John Muth at 956-4561.

  
 Joyce S. Tsunoda  
 Senior Vice President, University of Hawai'i and  
 Chancellor for Community Colleges

c: Vice Chancellors  
 Faculty Senate Chairs

enclosures

Monday, November 10, 1997

### COMPASS PLACEMENT TESTING CUT-SCORE AGREEMENTS FOR ENGLISH AND MATHEMATICS

English Faculty from the various campuses met at the Community College Institutional Research Office on Thursday, November 6 and came to consensus on two items:

1. Placement testing should be done in both Reading and Writing.
2. Placement would be generally based upon both scores, with the primary determinant being the reading score.

More Specifically:

Reading Score	Writing Score	Placement
0 – 50	Not used for placement	Basic Skills
51 – 80	Not used for placement 40 – 73	English 21 (Reading) English 22 (Writing)
81 – 100	Not used for placement 74 – 100	English 102 (College Reading) English 100 (Composition)

The Mathematics faculty met at Kapiolani Community College on Saturday, November 8 and also came to consensus on placement cut-scores. The group agreed that all students would start at the pre-algebra test level to minimize overall testing time.

More specifically:

Test	Score	Placement
Arithmetic (Pre-Algebra)	0 – 46 47 – 100	Basic Skills (ABE) Regular College Curriculum
Algebra	0 – 49 50 – 100 56 – 74 75 – 100	College Choice Math 100 Math 27 Math 135

Additional questions arose concerning costs and repeats on testing: specifically are fees possible, re-testing only by referral, multiple campus testing (how to share information to prevent/control), how to cover/use with DOE.