



HLC Accreditation Evidence

- Grade Point Average Placement Initiative

URL:

Office of Origin:

- Vice President of Instruction

Contact(s):

- Coordinator of Community Education

GPA Placement Initiative

Focus: Placement of high school students into English Comp I and College Algebra.

The GPA Placement Timeline presents the systematic approach for this project and the Placement Matrix presents the changes made in Placement.

Because of the Pandemic disruption, Barton explored use of GPAs as an alternative for placement testing. Data on DFW rates for College Advantage, CEP and Partnered Online (all the dual-enrolled classes) demonstrated significantly lower DFW rates than the College's average. This lower rate was suspected to be the result the support and consistency the students receive in the high school setting. Generally, they have an increased amount of seat time and the support of the high school teacher/other personnel, their school's counseling office, and the College's services of this nature.

The initial proposal and measures were inspired by research into California's Acceleration Project in which the organization determined that GPA was a valid indicator for a student's aptitude for success in a college course. The closer to high school graduation (and while in high school), the higher the success rate when GPA was used as a placement indicator. After researching other Kansas Community College's placement measures, the proposal and measures were established in response to the College's inability to test students at their schools in Spring 2020 and their decreased access to campus for Summer 2020.

When the team reconvened to review data and determine the next year's placement measures, the team decided that the re-opening and increased access to placement testing, both ACT and Accuplacer, opened new avenues to consider placement testing *and* GPA as combined placement measures. The re-testing policy to "earn" a second placement test attempt is a 12-point range below the published cut score. To "earn" a GPA/Algebra II grade review, students must score within six points of the published cut score.

A mid-year review of concluded Comp I class grades, mid-term Comp I grades, and mid-term College Algebra grades yielded the decision by the team to renew the pilot for high school students going in to the 2022 – 2023 academic year, as the testing cycle for that academic year kicked off in March/April 2022.

The data review of the 2021 – 2022 academic year is included. It indicates comparable success rates in English Comp I and College Algebra when using grade distribution of students placed using only test scores and students using test scores *and* GPA. While English Comp I placement scores versus placement scores + GPA are more closely aligned than those in College Algebra, the only students who earned a D, F, or W in College Algebra were placed into the class using only the placement score.