

Santa Rosa Junior College
STUDENT SUCCESS & ASSESSMENT SERVICES

To: Santa Rosa Junior College Academic Senate

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Re: Intent to adjust and/or implement placement methods to align with Assembly Bill 705

Date: May 1, 2020

Background

[AB 705](#) is a bill signed by the Governor on October 13, 2017 that took effect on January 1, 2018. The legislative intent is to:

1. Increase the numbers of students who enter and complete transfer-level English and mathematics/quantitative reasoning in one year
2. Minimize the disproportionate impact on students created through inaccurate placement processes

In July of 2018, Executive Vice-Chancellor Laura Hope (CCCO) and ASCCC President John Stankas authored a [memorandum of guidance](#) that shared evidence-based default placement rules with related success rates demonstrated within a framework that measures the success of a student moving through transfer-level math and English coursework in a one-year timeframe. These success rates associated with the default placement rules are a minimum threshold for colleges to meet or exceed with their locally-adopted practices.

In January 2019, SRJC implemented AB705 compliant placement rules for Math and English, anticipating that further adjustments and ESL placement would follow in 2020, in accordance the [states established timeline](#).

Local Placement Rules Proposed

Mathematics Placement Rules Adjustments:

The Mathematics Department is proposing an adjustment to the [current placement rules](#). In alignment with what is stated as allowable within the [state default placement rules](#), the [proposed adjustment](#) would require concurrent enrollment in a support class (Math 200) for students who have passed Algebra 2 or Integrated Math 3 with C or better and have a HS GPA less than 2.7 and wish to take Math 9, 16, 25, 27.

ESL Placement Process Adjustments:

The English as a Second Language Department proposal follows the [Credit English as a Second Language Guidance](#). The guidance allows the continued use of the CELSA exam for the next year. The SRJC ESL Department proposal allows credit ESL students the option of using the CELSA exam, the locally developed ESL Guided Self-Placement (GSP) activity, or both. This proposal allows the ESL faculty more time to further develop and review the GSP outcomes in order to move away from the CELSA test when required to do so.

In response to the conversion to remote services, the non-credit ESL placement test will be temporarily suspended. Students will instead be provided non-credit ESL course descriptions in order to make an informed decision before enrolling for summer or fall 2020 courses.

Action Requested

We are seeking approval from the Santa Rosa Junior College Academic Senate to adopt the new placement rules in recognition of the processes described above.

If approved, the mathematics placement adjustment would be effective for summer fall 2021 registration periods. However, the placement rules will be implemented in the coming months so that those students applying for fall 2021 (as soon as September 2020 when CCCApply will be released) will have an accurate mathematics placement for their fall 2021 planning.

The ESL Department changes will be effective immediately to serve students who have not yet matriculated for summer and fall 2021 enrollment.