

## Smarter Balanced Assessment: Washington's Public Baccalaureate Institutions

### 1. *How will the SBAC be used for students interested in attending a public baccalaureate institution in Washington?*

The current SBAC assessment provides students with an early indication if they are meeting educational expectations that align with their educational goals and the opportunity to identify next steps to ensure they are successful.

Students who complete the SBAC Assessment in mathematics or English and earn a Level 3 or 4 on the SBAC Assessment in mathematics and/or English are on a path towards college preparation. Students who earn a level 1 or 2 on the SBAC Assessment in mathematics and/or English may need additional work on certain skills and knowledge to be on a path towards college preparation. To prepare for college, students should work with teachers and counselors to identify gaps and develop a plan to meet the student's educational goals.

While SBAC is an assessment tool, to prepare for college, students must also complete the statewide minimum admission standards for Washington's public four-year college and universities. The statewide minimum admission standards<sup>1</sup> include but are not limited to the following, mathematics and English requirements:

Mathematics	English
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◆ Three years of mathematics to include at a minimum:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Algebra II or higher</li><li>• Integrated Math III or higher</li></ul></li><li>◆ A math-based quantitative course in the 12th grade</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◆ Four years of English to include at a minimum:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Three credits of college preparatory coursework including literature and composition</li><li>• One credit of elective English</li></ul></li></ul>

<sup>1</sup> Completion of the minimum admission standards does not guarantee admission to a Washington public baccalaureate institution

2. *Does the SBAC guarantee I will be able to take college level course work?*

Under the current SBAC, students attending Washington's public four-year college and universities will need to have prior college coursework showing proficiency in college level math or English or will need to take a placement assessment.

If a student completed the Smarter Balanced Assessment prior to 2018 in Washington and are graduates of the Class of 2018 or the Class of 2019 a student may be exempt from remedial course work based on their SBAC score. *See Question 4.*

3. *Are the scores from the Smarter Balanced assessment used as part of the admissions process at Washington baccalaureate institutions?*

No. The SBAC Assessment provides students with an early indication if they are meeting educational expectations that align with their educational goals and the opportunity to identify next steps to ensure that they are successful. To best prepare for college, students should take full advantage of the comprehensive options available to them throughout their high school career by pursuing the most rigorous curriculum for which they are ready and qualified to undertake and complete the statewide minimum admission standards for Washington's public four-year universities and college.

4. *If I completed the SBAC prior to 2018, does the SBAC guarantee I will be able to take college level course work?*

Students who completed the Smarter Balanced Assessment **prior to 2018 in Washington and are graduates of the Class of 2018 or the Class of 2019** will be exempted from remedial coursework in mathematics and/or English if the student:

SBAC Assessment Mathematics	SBAC Assessment English
<p>If a student:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Earned a Level 3 or 4 on the Smarter Balanced Assessment in Mathematics; <b>and</b></li> <li>Completed the minimum admissions requirement of a quantitative course in the 12th grade.</li> </ul> <p>Then:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completed a college-level course as specified by each institution during the first year following high school graduation.</li> </ul> <p><i>*Does not guarantee placement in specific college courses, but students may enroll in more advanced math courses through university placement testing.</i></p>	<p>If a student:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Earned a Level 3 or 4 on the Assessment; <b>and</b></li> <li>Completed the fourth-year minimum admission requirement in English; <b>and</b></li> </ul> <p>Then:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completed a college-level English composition course during the first year following high school graduation.</li> </ul>

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5. *Do students have to take advantage of the placement opportunity offered by their Smarter Balanced assessment scores completed prior to 2018?*

No. Students should work with the institution to determine the best placement options to meet their educational goals. This may include enrolling in a college-level course, taking additional placement to enroll in a higher-level course or enroll in a pre-college course.

6. *Based on Smarter Balanced assessment scores completed prior to 2018 alone, can colleges offer students placement into additional college-level courses beyond what is defined in this agreement?*

Yes, colleges may extend the opportunities for placement without requiring additional testing or transcript information if they choose. That decision is up to each individual institution.

7. *How will the Smarter Balanced assessment scores completed prior to 2018 be reported to colleges and universities for the purpose of applying the basic terms?*

The public baccalaureate institutions will recognize the placement agreement for these students. The test scores, however, do not exempt students from the minimum admission course requirements in English and mathematics.

The **only way** a Smarter Balanced Assessment score will be reported to a college or university is if a student provides the relevant documentation from their high school to the institution of higher education. The student is responsible for providing this information.