

Smarter Balanced Assessment: Washington's Public Four-Year Institutions

1. *What are the basic terms of the agreement for students interested in attending a public baccalaureate institution in Washington?*

Smarter Balanced Assessment Mathematics:

Students who do the following will be exempt from remedial coursework in mathematics. Students may enroll in more advanced math courses through university placement testing.

- ◆ Students who earn a Level 3 or 4 on the 11th grade Smarter Balanced Assessment in Mathematics and
- ◆ Complete the minimum admissions requirement of a quantitative course in the 12th grade and
- ◆ Complete a college-level course as specified by each institution during the first year following high school graduation

Smarter Balanced Assessment English Language Arts

Students who do the following will be exempt from remedial coursework in English composition.

- ◆ Students who earn a Level 3 or 4 on the 11th grade Smarter Balanced Assessment in English Language Arts and
- ◆ Complete the fourth-year minimum admission requirement in English and
- ◆ Complete a college-level English composition course during the first year following high school graduation

2. *What are the differences between the agreement for the public baccalaureates and the community and technical colleges?*

- ◆ There are two differences between the public baccalaureate agreement and the community and technical college agreement.
- ◆ The first relates to students who earn a Level 1 or 2 on one or both of the assessments. Unlike the community and technical colleges the public baccalaureate agreement does not apply to students who earn below a Level 3. Additional placement information determined by the institution will be required for all entry-level courses. The only exception is Eastern Washington University, which allows students who score a Level 2 to take a Bridge to College transition course in 12th grade in math and/or English and be placed in a college-level course. A student must earn a Level 2 and a B or higher in the second semester of the course.

- ◆ The second is that, until evidence of student success is available, the public baccalaureate institutions want additional proof of readiness before placing any students into higher-level quantitative courses.
3. *Does the same placement agreement apply to all of the public baccalaureate institutions?*
 - ◆ Yes, the placement agreement applies to all of the public baccalaureate institutions.
 4. *Are the scores from the Smarter Balanced 11th grade assessment used as part of the admissions process at Washington baccalaureate institutions?*
 - ◆ No. However, Washington baccalaureate institutions want to support the implementation of Common Core and encourage students to achieve these higher standards. The more information institutions have about student academic performance, the better.
 5. *What students does the public baccalaureate placement agreement apply to?*
 - ◆ The agreement applies only to students who took the assessment in Washington and the high school graduating classes of 2016 through 2018. There is no reciprocity between states for students who take the Smarter Balanced assessment out of state.
 6. *Do students have to take advantage of the placement opportunity offered by their Smarter Balanced scores?*
 - ◆ 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.
 7. *How does the public baccalaureate placement agreement apply to students who graduate after 2018?*
 - ◆ The agreement will be reviewed and renewed or revised formally in winter 2018 based on relevant data gathered on the Smarter Balanced assessment including (a) correlations with SAT/ACT scores, (b) grade 12 student performance and (c) student performance on placement tests into and success in more advanced courses especially pre-calculus, calculus and other math courses.
 8. *What if a student re-takes the Smarter Balanced assessment as a senior and gets a higher score?*
 - ◆ Although at this time no statewide decisions have been made about funding re-takes on the 11th grade assessments, as the Smarter Balanced assessment is phased in as a graduation requirement districts will need to offer a re-take opportunity for any students scoring below college-ready (levels 1 and 2). If students earn a higher score then they will follow the placement option recommendation for the higher level based on the re-test score.
 9. *What if a student takes the Smarter Balanced assessment in the 10th grade and scores a Level 3 or 4?*
 - ◆ 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.
 10. *Based on the Smarter Balanced scores 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 the individual institution.

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11. *Are the current required high school assessments—the 10th grade High School Proficiency Exam (HSPE) in English Language Arts and the math end-of course exams (Algebra I and Geometry)—given any consideration by higher education as part of this agreement?*
- ◆ No. The Smarter Balanced 11th grade assessment is currently the only assessment clearly developed for and aligned to the college and career readiness standards in the Common Core. The HSPE has been eliminated and replaced by the Smarter Balanced assessment for English Language Arts; it is being administered to all juniors beginning in spring 2015 and is set to be a requirement for the graduating class of 2016 for English.
12. *How will the Smarter Balanced scores be reported to colleges and universities for the purpose of applying the placement agreement?*
- ◆ At this time 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.