



To: John Stalvey, Interim Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor  
University of Alaska Anchorage

Cc: Sam Gingerich, Interim Chancellor

Fr: Monique Marron,  
UAA Governance Office

Re: 090718-1 Revised WRTG Curriculum Placement Scores

On September 7, 2018 the Faculty Senate approved a motion to approve the WRTG curriculum placement scores brought forth by UAB.

Please see the enclosed documents for more information.

If I may be of further assistance, please let me know.

**Provost**

Approved     Disapproved

Comments:

John Stalvey, Interim Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor

9/10/2018

Date

**Chancellor**

Approved     Disapproved

Comments:

Sam Gingerich, Interim Chancellor

9/16/2018

Date



**UAA Community &  
Technical College**  
UNIVERSITY of ALASKA ANCHORAGE

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Date: August 24, 2018

To: Yvonne Chase, Chair, Undergraduate Academic Board

Denise Runge, Dean, Community & Technical College

Thomas Harman, Co-Chair, CTC Program Improvement & Curriculum Review Committee

From: Shannon Gramse, Chair, Department of Writing

Re: Revised Placement Scores for WRTG classes and Spring 2019 Co-requisite Pilot for WRTG 111

DocuSigned by:

*Denise Runge*

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DocuSigned by:

*Tom Harman*

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DocuSigned by:

*Shannon Gramse*

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Last fall, writing and English faculty leaders statewide adopted aligned placement scores for the new, untested Accuplacer Next Generation exam, which we began offering in July 2018—see attached December 2017 memo. Statewide alignment allows for either discrete or combined reading and writing scores. Having studied early results of the new exam, the Department of Writing wishes to return to the use of combined scores for placement into writing classes, effective Spring Semester 2019.

	Accuplacer Next Generation
<b>WRTG 090</b>	Writing: 235 Reading: 235 Or a combined score of $\geq 470$
<b>WRTG 110</b>	Writing: 250 Reading: 250 Or a combined score of $\geq 500$
<b>WRTG 111</b>	Writing: 265 Reading: 265 Or a combined score of $\geq 530$

Since English placement scores don't expire, UAA should continue to honor our current "Accuplacer Classic" scores.

The Department of Writing also wishes to emphasize this point from the December 2017 statewide faculty memo: "Even as we adopt this revised version of Accuplacer, we underline the well-known limitations of any standardized test in placing students appropriately into our courses, and we remain committed to multiple measures and to student input in the placement process."

Additionally, beginning in spring 2019, the Department of Writing intends to expand its successful co-requisite Accelerated Learning Program from the WRTG 090-WRTG 110 level to the WRTG 110-WRTG 111 level. This approach allows motivated students to "skip up" a level in their initial WRTG placement while taking a co-requisite support lab (WRTG 092 English Skills Lab) taught by the same instructor that meets immediately after the core class. Students placed in WRTG 110 then would have the option this spring of taking WRTG 111 and WRTG 092 together instead. This is national best practice in developmental education, and we feel is worthy approach in our contexts to helping more UAA students meet their written communication GER.

**Date:** December 6, 2017

**To:** Statewide Academic Council  
Faculty Alliance

**From:** Jackie Cason, UAA  
Scott Downing, UAA (KPC)  
Shannon Gramse, UAA  
Jared Griffin, UAA (KOC)  
Cindy Hardy, UAF  
Trish Jenkins, UAA  
Sarah Kirk, UAA  
Rod Landis, UAS  
Jordana Long, UAA (KOC)  
Kate Quick, UAF  
Sara Rufner, UAA  
Taten Sheridan, UAA (KOC)  
Sarah Stanley, UAF

**CC:** Lindsey Chadwell, UAA Registrar  
Mark Earnest, UAF Registrar  
Francine Feero, UAA Testing Manager  
Barbara Hegel, UAS Registrar  
Wanda Whitcomb, UAS Testing Supervisor  
Patty White, UAF Testing Manager

**Subject:** Transition to Accuplacer Next Generation

The College Board is in the process of phasing out the current version of Accuplacer and replacing it with Accuplacer Next Generation. The current Accuplacer test will cease to be available as of January 2019. Anticipating this and the time needed to enact such a change system-wide, we faculty agree that our programs will adopt the new test in June 2018. Also recognizing the need to maintain BOR-mandated alignment across the state, we collectively propose the following new "cut scores" take effect for placement into these Fall 2018 courses:

	<b>Current "Accuplacer Classic" Aligned Cut Scores (2012)</b>	<b>Proposed "Accuplacer Next Generation" Cut Scores (Fall 2018)</b>
<b>WRTG 090</b>	Reading Comprehension: 50 Sentence Skills: 60 Or a combined score of $\geq 110$	Writing: 235 Reading: 235 Or a combined score of $\geq 470$
<b>WRTG 110</b>	Reading Comprehension: 65 Sentence Skills: 75 Or a combined score of $\geq 140$	Writing: 250 Reading: 250 Or a combined score of $\geq 500$
<b>WRTG 111</b>	Reading Comprehension: 80 Sentence Skills: 90 Or a combined score of $\geq 170$	Writing: 265 Reading: 265 Or a combined score of $\geq 530$

Since English placements, unlike Math, don't "expire," the current "Accuplacer Classic" will be honored alongside the new scores. **These scores are based on materials from the College Board and 14 schools nationally who already using the new version of the test.** Like all placement measures, these scores will require regular study and revision as we measure impacts on student success. Additionally, the College Board will publish a concordance between the old and new tests in the summer of 2018, but this will come too late to begin the curricular, technological, and procedural work our campuses need to begin now to enact this change.

Even as we adopt this revised version of Accuplacer, we underline the well-known limitations of any standardized test in placing students appropriately into our courses, and we remain committed to multiple measures and to student input in the placement process. Our 2012 and 2016 recommendations still reflect national best practices in considering multiple measures for course placement, but in many of our local contexts, we require additional resources and administrative support to put these ideals into action.