

BCC DEVELOPMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAM INFORMATION

Before the start of a semester, new BCC students are assessed for proficiency in reading and writing if their SAT Critical Reading score is below 540 and/ or their Math SAT score is below 530. (The verbal section is used for evaluation with the old SAT.) This assessment is used for placement purposes only. So, if students scored below 540 in the Reading section and/ OR below 530 in the Math section, OR if they did not take the SAT, they must register for further testing at BCC. Possible test exemptions are listed at http://staff.bcc.edu/testctr/pdf/CollegeAssessment_March2009.pdf

Burlington County College uses the CollegeBoard ACCUPLACER Test as its placement instrument for Developmental Reading, Developmental English, and Developmental Math. Students take the Accuplacer computer online version (COMPASS) of the placement test. On occasion, the Accuplacer may possibly be administered in a paper and pencil version. To reduce possible test anxiety, students may wish to use these online links as a source of Accuplacer practice: www.testpreview.com and ux.brookdalecc.edu/fac/reading/mhurley/

When a student wishes to challenge the original Accuplacer results, one of the seven different versions of the CollegeBoard Accuplacer online test is used as a challenge test, (The original testing is free, but the student is charged a nominal fee for each subject section of a challenge test taken.) BCC uses the higher of the two test scores for placement, in the event that the student actually scores a lower score on the challenge test. In general, students wait too long to challenge test results (or to initially take the placement test), they may lose the opportunity to retest. No challenge tests are allowed to be given once the semester has begun. A student's assigned Developmental Reading level is based on the student's performance on the Accuplacer placement assessment.

The BCC Developmental Program was set up to even the playing field for all students who enter BCC. There are two levels of Developmental Reading and English. BCC offers three levels of Developmental Math, but the MTH 095 level needs to only be completed by students who need it for their particular major. Students may possibly test out of the individual programs *initially* or possibly enter them at different stages.

Developmental students must complete all Developmental Reading requirements before taking ENG 102 (required for all Liberal Arts degrees). They must complete ENG 075 obligations before taking ENG 101 (required for all BCC degrees), and Developmental Math students must complete up to either MTH 075 or MTH 095, depending on their major. A student may take ENG 101 and REA 095 during the same semester, but a student is not allowed to take ENG 101 before completing a required REA 095 course. Students *must* complete any required REA 075 obligations before enrolling in ENG 101.

Of the three BCC Developmental Areas of the program, Reading is the only individual program where high achieving students may possibly test out of the next required Developmental Reading level at the end of a semester. [See grading sections of the REA 075 syllabus on the faculty website of Diane J. Schellack, BCC Developmental Reading Coordinator (<http://staff.bcc.edu/DSCHELLA>) for program specifics regarding Reading Advancement Tests.]

Although developmental courses do not count toward graduation credit, they were created in order to improve student performance in college level courses. The taking of required Developmental Education courses should *never* be viewed as punishment, a reflection of student inadequacy, nor should it be viewed as a lack of intelligence on the part of the student. BCC Office of Institutional Research tracks developmental students' success in future courses and the research supports the effectiveness of the program.