



ACADEMIC AFFAIRS GUIDELINES

Section 2.2	Admissions and Transfer	
Title:	English Placement Guidelines	
Number (Current Format)	Number (Prior Format)	Date Last Revised
2.2.1.B	XII.E, 7.6.B	5/2022
Reference:	Board of Regents Minutes, August 2016. April 2017 Placement Update at AAC BOR Policy 2.2.1 – System Undergraduate Admissions	
Related Form(s):		

1. Introduction

- 1.1. **Overview:** The South Dakota Board of Regents espouses a standardized process specific to initial placement of students in English composition courses.
- 1.2. **Rationale:** Students are placed in accordance with acknowledged skills and abilities. Such placement promises a match between student preparation/dispositions and course rigor; it positions students for collegiate success in English, which retains vital importance.
- 1.3. **Scope:** All incoming, degree seeking students at the undergraduate level (associate and baccalaureate-degreed programs) are initially placed in English courses as established by approved guidelines; transfer students who have fulfilled general education requirements in English are exempt. For non-degree seeking students, placement is relevant only if students pursue registration in English course work. In such cases, placement procedures do apply.
- 1.4. **Special Circumstances:** Students who require remediation are afforded commensurate levels of supplemental, tailored support; this instructional benefit promotes solid acquisition of English skills and successful progression through general education requirements.

2. Initial Placement in English Courses

2.1. Initial Placement Procedures

2.1.1. Initial placement is determined by the English Placement Matrix in Appendix A. Students are placed into either ENGL 101, ENGL 032 (which is taken concurrently with ENGL 101), or ENGL 033.

2.1.2. For students with valid ACT or Smarter Balanced Assessment scores, the English or English Language Arts (ELA) scores are used to determine placement into the initial English course.

2.1.2.1. Valid ACT or Smarter Balanced scores are scores that were earned by the student within five (5) years of the date of initial enrollment within the Regental system.

2.1.2.2. If a student has multiple ACT scores, the highest ACT English subscore is used for placement purposes.

2.1.3. Students who do not have valid ACT or Smarter Balanced scores must sit for the ACCUPLACER Writing placement exam.

2.1.3.1. Universities may use the modified remote ACCUPLACER testing procedures issued by College Board to facilitate placement.

2.2. Alternative Initial Placement Procedures

2.2.1. In rare circumstances when a first-time student does not have valid ACT or Smarter Balanced scores, and ACCUPLACER testing is not an option for a student, universities may use the student's letter grade(s) in his or her most recent high school academic year's English courses.

2.2.2. Using this method, placement into ENGL 101 requires a letter grade of B or better in each English course.

2.2.3. Students with a letter grade of C in any English course, or students without a recent English course letter grade, may be placed into English courses by taking a proctored essay-writing assignment administered by the student's university of enrollment. This assignment is assessed by the university's English program department chair or department chair designee. Assessment is holistic, with students completing sufficient assignments placed in ENGL 101 and students completing insufficient assignments placed in ENGL 033 or ENGL 032.

2.2.4. Students with a letter grade of D or F in any English course are placed into ENGL 033 or ENGL 032.

3. Course Placement

3.1. Within an explicit time frame (following course registration, but before start of the applicable term), new exam scores may become available. In such situations, placement is reassessed; changes to course registrations may be either merited or required.

3.2. Students who sit for the ACCUPLACER exam outside of the regental system may furnish official test scores; such scores are considered/applied to the approved regental English placement process.

4. Exceptions

4.1. Exception appeals are handled on a case-by-case basis by the requesting student's home university.

4.2. Any exceptions must be approved in advance of the census date established for the relevant term.

5. Inappropriate Enrollment

- 5.1. Students are required to adhere to placement procedures; they must register for courses as indicated by the English placement matrix.
- 5.2. Universities purposefully access information housed in the regental student information system to monitor appropriate course enrollments.
- 5.3. Upon identification, students who disregard placement directives are administratively withdrawn prior to census date for the term and notified of this outcome.

6. Additional Notes

- 6.1. Testing Accommodations: The regental system conscientiously adheres to relevant legislation (South Dakota Human Relations Act of 1972, Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and Americans with Disabilities Act); in that spirit, each university offers reasonable accommodation for students who submit such requests in advance of scheduled test sessions.
- 6.2. Historical Footnote: Traditionally, English placement procedures were set in BOR policy. In August of 2016, the board membership approved a transition from BOR policy to AAC Guidelines. However, changes to the placement matrix remain subject to BOR approval.

SOURCE:

BOR August 2016; May 2017 (Clerical); July 2017 (Clerical); AAC February 2018; AAC July 2018; AAC February 2019; April 2019 (Clerical); May 2019 (Clerical), April 2020 (Clerical); AAC September 2020; AAC May 2022.

Appendix A
ACT, Smarter Balance, and ACCUPLACER Placement Scores for English

University	Course	ACT English Sub-Scores	Smarter Balanced ELA Score	ACCUPLACER Next Generation Writing Score**
<i>General Education</i>				
BHSU, DSU, NSU, SDSMT, SDSU, & USD	ENGL 101: Composition I	18-36	2583 or higher	263 or higher
<i>Pre-General Education</i>				
BHSU	ENGL 032: Basic Writing (Corequisite with ENGL 101; 2 Credits)*	<18	0-2582	0-262
DSU	ENGL 032: Basic Writing (Corequisite with ENGL 101; 2 Credits)*	<18	0-2582	0-262
	ENGL 033: Basic Writing (3 Credits)*	<18	0-2582	0-262
NSU	ENGL 033: Basic Writing (3 Credits)	<18	0-2582	0-262
SDSMT	ENGL 032: Basic Writing (Corequisite with ENGL 101; 2 Credits)***	<18	0-2582	0-262
	ENGL 033: Basic Writing (3 Credits)***	<18	0-2582	0-262
SDSU	ENGL 032: Basic Writing (Corequisite with ENGL 101; 2 Credits)*	<18	0-2582	0-262
	ENGL 033: Basic Writing (3 Credits)*	<18	0-2582	0-262
USD	ENGL 032: Basic Writing (Corequisite with ENGL 101; 2 Credits)*	<18	0-2582	0-262
	ENGL 033: Basic Writing (3 Credits)*	<18	0-2582	0-262

*After consulting with an academic advisor, students may opt to take the co-requisite course (ENGL 032/ENGL 101) or the prerequisite course (ENGL 033).

**ACCUPLACER exam scores are only used if the student does not have a valid ACT English Sub-Score, or Smarter Balanced ELA Score.

***SDSMT does not offer remedial English courses. Students enrolled at SDSMT who need remedial English must take either ENGL 033 or ENGL 032 from another Regental University.

Note: Students without valid ACT or Smarter Balanced scores, and who are unable to take the ACCUPLACER exam may qualify using the Alternate English Placement Procedures outlined in these guidelines.

Appendix B

ACT – SAT English / Reading Score Concordance

SAT ERW	ACT English + Reading	SAT ERW	ACT English + Reading
800 – *790	72	520	39
780 – *770	71	510	38
760 – *750	70	500	37
740	69	490	35
730	68	480	34
720	67	470	33
710	66	460	32
700	64	450	31
690	63	440	30
680	61	430	29
670	60	420	28
660	58	410	27
650	57	400	26
640	55	390	25
630	54	380	24
620	52	370	23
610	51	360	22
600	49	350	21
590	48	340	20
580	46	330	19
570	45	320	18
560	44	310	17
550	43	300	16
540	42	290	15
530	40	280	14

Note: * indicates score to be used when a single point is needed.

Note: ERW = Evidence-based Reading and Writing.

Appendix C

ACCUPLACER Next Generation Reading Placement		
	ACT Reading Subscore	ACCUPLACER Next Gen Reading
Remedial Reading (READ 041)	1 – 15	200-262
No Remedial Courses	16-36	263-300

NSU, & SDSU offer READ 041.