

FAQs: New Options for Testing and Developmental Education

You may have heard that new Florida legislation known as Senate Bill 1720 has made significant changes to college assessment and placement requirements for students in the Florida College System. These changes may affect you and the choices you make regarding your academic pathway at CF. The following frequently asked questions may help you understand your options and prepare you for a discussion with your academic advisor.

I heard that I may not have to take a college placement test and/or enroll in developmental education classes before enrolling in college-level courses. Is this true?

- If you started in a Florida public high school during the 2003-2004 school year or later and graduated with a standard high school diploma from a Florida public high school in 2007 or later, you now have the option of taking a placement test or enrolling in developmental education classes.
- Or, if you are active duty military, you now have the option of taking a placement test or enrolling in developmental education classes.
- Students in this category will follow an **Elective Pathway** – your advisor will help develop your individual academic plan with you.

Who will be required to take a placement test and/or enroll in developmental education classes?

- Students who do not meet the above criteria.
- Students who entered ninth grade in a Florida public high school prior to the 2003-2004 academic year.
- Students who did not attend a Florida public high school.
- Students who earned a high school equivalency diploma or GED.
- Students who didn't earn a standard high school diploma from a Florida public high school.
- Home education students.
- Private high school students.
- Prospective dual enrollment students.
- Students in this category will follow a **Prescribed Pathway** – your advisor will help develop your individual academic plan with you.

I've already completed ENC1101 Freshman Composition Skills I and/or MAT1033 Intermediate Algebra, does this apply to me?

No.

I'm currently taking ENC1101 Freshman Composition Skills I and/or MAT1033 Intermediate Algebra, does this apply to me?

No.

What do the changes mean for students who will follow an Elective Pathway?

- Elective Pathway students have the option of taking college placement tests but are not required to do so. If they elect to take the college placement test, they will have the option of enrolling in developmental education courses if needed.

- Advisors may also use student grade point average in high school, previous coursework and other information to recommend courses for student success.

Why should I still consider taking a readiness test even though it is not required?

- The Postsecondary Education Readiness Test, or PERT, gives you and your advisor a good indicator of where your skill level is in reading, writing and math. If your scores do not reflect readiness for college-level coursework in any of these areas, this is an indication that you may need a little extra work in that area. Your advisor will help you make decisions as to the best course of action to be successful in your college classes.
- There is no drawback to testing, as it will only be used to advise you of your options for success.

Why should I still consider taking developmental education classes, even though they are not required?

- Developmental education classes may improve your skills in particular subject areas before you take the college-level courses that count toward your degree. There are many accelerated options available that will enable students to successfully complete developmental education in one semester or less!
- Your college record is important. If you are not adequately prepared for college-level coursework in a subject area, the result could be a failing grade or withdrawal. Failing grades and withdrawals from classes can affect your financial aid eligibility and acceptance into some programs and universities. Your advisor will help you develop an academic plan for college success.
- After you take the same course twice, you will be charged out-of-state cost for the third attempt at the course. Financial aid will not cover this third attempt, and you will have to pay the higher cost out of your own pocket. The third attempt would be the last time allowed at CF, and you would then have to take the course at another school if you did not pass the course with a C grade or higher. By taking the developmental education classes and building your skills, you could avoid this.

What if I decide to skip the developmental education classes at first, but then change my mind?

- It is not too late to back up and take developmental education courses later if you find yourself struggling in the college-level courses. Please see your advisor who will help you figure out the best plan for success.

What if I decide to take the developmental education classes, but later decide to skip the remainder and go into the college-level courses?

- Since developmental education courses are optional for you this is technically possible. However, skipping these courses may not be recommended. If you take the developmental education courses, but decide you want to take college-level classes before finishing the developmental education sequence, then you will need to see your advisor to discuss your options and make a decision regarding the pathway that will lead to your success.