



MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: HIGHER EDUCATION AND SMARTER BALANCED TESTING
TO: Superintendents, high school principals, counselors, students, and families
FROM: Ben Cannon, Executive Director, Higher Education Coordinating Commission
DATE: July 19, 2016

As full implementation of the Common Core becomes a reality in Oregon K-12 education, the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) is working with campuses and the Oregon Department of Education on connections and alignment with higher education. As a result of agreements approved in 2015 by Oregon's public colleges and universities, assessment of Common Core standards through Smarter Balanced (SBAC) testing can now help simplify student pathways once they get to college.

In 2015, Oregon [Community College Presidents](#) and [University Provosts](#) agreed to incorporate Smarter Balanced test scores into their processes for placement of students into entry-level, credit-bearing college courses without need for additional placement testing for developmental education. These agreements apply to high school students graduating in 2016, 2017, or 2018 and entering an Oregon community college or public university. **How the agreements are implemented at each community college or university may vary slightly from campus to campus, so please contact institutions for details on course placement.**

The agreements will be reviewed and renewed or revised in 2018 based on relevant data gathered on the Smarter Balanced assessment, such as (a) correlations with other assessment results, (b) grade 12 student performance, and (c) student performance in subsequent college courses.

How does it work?

A general description of the process is below, and students, families, and counselors should consult institutions directly to learn more about their placement processes.

- **At community colleges:** students will be exempt from developmental education coursework in the academic year immediately following high school completion if they have earned an Achievement Level 3 or 4 on the Smarter Balanced grade 11 assessment in Mathematics and/or English and have **successfully completed relevant accelerated college credit options in Mathematics and/or English, respectively, during their senior year.** Examples of acceptable accelerated credit courses include dual credit, early college, local accelerated credit models, and exam achievement in AP or IB courses. The HECC is currently compiling a more detailed list of acceptable 12th grade accelerated credit courses, specific placement policies for each community college and public university, and points of contact at the institutions for questions. The Smarter Balanced test scores for Oregon students who enroll in an Oregon community college will be made available to the college through the HECC's student information system.
- **At Oregon universities:** Smarter Balanced results and senior course work have been incorporated into each institution's multiple measures of college readiness for placement purposes.

Further information:

[Oregon Department of Education \(ODE\) Smarter Balanced Communication Resources](#)
[Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium](#)
[ODE: Common Core Standards and Assessments](#)