

Proposals for Faculty Senate Consideration:

Grading for the Spring 2020 Semester:

Requesting a Faculty Senate Recommendation for the Spring 2020 semester:

Allowing the following to be added to the list of grades that can be awarded for credit and imputed credit courses. The goal is to provide GPA “relief” to interested students in light of the enormous disruption caused by the pandemic. The importance of having a grade that covers letter grades A through C is to improve potential transferability of credits to other institutions:

- **S: Represents grades of A to C**
- **P: Represents grades of C- to D-**
- **U: Represents a grade of F**

The following is a **draft** process for the current semester (subject to change.) Faculty Senate is welcome to provide feedback, but no recommendation is required.

- Faculty enter final grades, as they would normally do every term.
- Students given the option to request to “mask” their earned grades in the following manner:
 - If earned grade is A-C, student will be issued S grade
 - If earned grade is C- to D-, student will be issued P grade
 - Both grades earn credit for the course
 - S and P grades are excluded from GPA calculation
 - S grade can be used in transfer to other institutions (pending acceptance by the other institution)
 - If earned grade is F, student will be issued U grade
 - U grade would not be successful completion and earn no academic credits.
 - U grade would not be included in GPA calculation
- Students wanting a masked grade would notify the college for each course to be masked. (We are developing a system for this data collection).
 - Although not formally part of this proposal, we are investigating whether students earning an F grade could automatically have that grade changed to U. If put into place, no request by student would be necessary. An earned F grade would be masked as U for all students, unless this is found to negatively impact students.
- Students could choose to mask some or all of their grades for the spring 2020 term
- Request for masking should begin May 20 and end August 1, 2020.
- Students may request that their grades be unmasked at any point between now and their graduation date, if after August 1, 2020. No changes to masking would occur after graduation. Request would need to be made in writing to R&R
- Students requesting MCC inform 'others' of the earned grade would be accommodated. Student would need to make request in writing to R&R.

- Individual course withdrawal period will be extended to the last day of the final examination week
- Students would need to make this request to R&R for processing (we may have an electronic solution, but need to test)

Implementation of a Provisional GPA-Based Placement Model for English

On March 22, 2020, Examity, the only remote-proctoring platform utilized and sanctioned by Accuplacer, suspended its services in response to the COVID-19 “lockdown” enacted in India—where its support and proctoring centers are located. Examity has stated that the soonest it can resume services is March 31, 2020, but this is not guaranteed. Given that MCC uses Accuplacer to place the vast majority of incoming students in English and Math, the College must implement alternate placement models and processes.

Various stakeholders have been exploring the implementation of a GPA-based placement model at MCC since 2015—and most recently, the ad hoc committee responsible for this proposal was working towards piloting such a model this year, prior to the COVID-19 outbreak. In light of this dynamic, we propose the following provisional English placement model for immediate adoption.

Students with Verifiable GPAs

Those students with GPAs that can be verified on an official high school transcript will be placed as follows:

- 80 HS GPA or higher ENG 101¹
- 71-79 HS GPA ALP (TRS 099 – ENG 101 Co-Requisite)
- 64.1-70 HS GPA TRS 200
- 64 HS GPA or below TRS 100

Students without Verifiable GPAs

Students will self-report GPAs and participate in self-directed placement.

- Placement guidance will provide students an overview of the curricula for multiple levels of English instruction and help them to identify the level that fits best with their skillsets.
- Using faculty-produced materials and training, Placement Advisors will meet virtually with students to assist them in determining which options best fit, and create a Banner record enabling students to register for the appropriate classes.²
- These resources can be emailed to students or housed on the College website.
- Such advisement will be coordinated through the Testing Center, and select faculty from both English and TRS can function as advisors.³
- In the event that a student is unable to access the aforementioned resources or receive advisement in any capacity, the self-reported GPA will function as the placement measure.

¹ Comprehensive high school GPA will be the default measure. However, a student’s GPA at the conclusion of his/her junior year will be used if applying prior to graduation.

² Faculty from English and Transitional Studies have volunteered to produce materials, such as primers and videos, explicitly outlining the learning outcomes, expectations, and level of rigor for each course in the English matrix.

³ Once students, faculty, and staff are allowed to return to campus, we will revise this process to allow for both remote and face-to-face advisement. Moreover, we recommend the exploration of placement advising counting towards faculty advising hours—with the understanding that most students would need said advisement during the summer.

Exceptions

GPA Waiver Policy

Faculty Senate Resolution 1.1.10, which outlines the college's Placement Testing Waiver Policy, will apply to this proposed placement model, thus superseding GPA-based placement. Please see the English section of the attached resolution for details.

ESOL Placement

For students who took any ESOL courses in high school in the U.S. (grades 9-12) or have a foreign HS diploma, the currently established process for placing these students within the English course matrix will supersede the proposed, GPA-based placement model.

Assessment

The ad hoc Committee for GPA-Based Placement in English will assess the efficacy of this model over the next year and propose adjustments as deemed necessary.

Provisional Mathematics Placements

Due to the COVID-19-related unavailability of Accuplacer, students first enrolling at MCC for the Fall 2020 semester will receive a provisional mathematics level placement based on information in the high school transcript, including:

- Regents Exam scores for Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II/Trigonometry
- Course grades for Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II/Trigonometry, and Pre-calculus
- SAT and ACT math test scores
- AP Calculus exam scores
- High School GPA

The levels determined in this way will meet prerequisites for mathematics courses and for other courses that have math prerequisites. Cut scores and other details are provided on the Mathematics Department's grid.

Provisional Mathematics Placement Grid with Expanded Use of High School Transcript Information (Shaded cells show placement criteria already in use.)

Placement level	Algebra I Course Grade	Algebra I Regents Exam	Geometry Course Grade	Algebra II Course Grade	Geometry Regents Exam	Algebra II Trig Regents Exam	Pre-Calculus Course grade	SAT score in math	ACT score in math	AP Calculus Test Score
1 TRS 092										
2 TRS 094/ 050 w MTH150	75 or higher and HS GPA 2.0 or higher	65 (or level 3) or higher and HS GPA 2.0 or higher								
4 MTH 096/ 098/135/150			75 or higher with HS GPA 3.5 or higher	75 or higher with HS GPA 3.0 or higher						
5 MTH 099 w MTH 104				75 or higher with HS GPA 3.5 or higher	75 – 84 (level 3 or 4) with HS GPA 3.0 or higher					
6 MTH 104 w MTH 165/155				85 or higher with HS GPA 3.0 or higher	85 or higher (Level 5)	70 – 74 (Level 3)				
7 MTH 160/162				85 or higher with HS GPA 3.5 or higher	85 or +(level 5) with HS GPA 3.5 or +	70-74 (level 3) and HS GPA 3.0 or +	75 or higher with HS GPA 3.0 or higher			
8 MTH 165/140 165 w 175						75 – 82 (Level 4)	85 or higher and HS GPA 3.0 or higher			
9 MTH 175						83 or higher (Level 5)	85 or higher and HS GPA 3.5 or higher	620 or higher	26 or higher	
10 MTH 210							83 or higher			3 or higher

- Students will be placed at the highest level for which they meet the given criteria. If no listed criteria are met, place level 1.
- Students whose scores are over 3 years old should be placed at one level lower than what is in the table.
- Students who are placed via the traditional criteria (table cells shaded) will be coded as math placement by high school (PMH).
- Students who are placed via the new criteria (table cells not shaded) will be coded PMI (impermanent math placement) so that we can see how well these new criteria are working and remove the placements if they are not working well.
- As traditionally practiced, students currently enrolled in Algebra II whose transcripts show they are level 6 could be given temporary level 8 (coded PMHE); and those at level 9 enrolled in Precalculus a temporary level 10 (coded PMHT), if their semester grades indicate they are likely to achieve the criteria for the higher level. No student should be given a temporary placement except in these cases. These must be reviewed once students have final HS transcripts and before classes start and recoded as a PMH or PMI level by the Mathematics Department chair.