

RACLS meeting minutes November 4, 2016

35 RACLS members or their designees attended

## 1. Accuplacer

- a. Can anyone confirm that the conversion from Accuplacer to COMPASS now exists in SOATEST? What are those fields called?
  - Conversion was part of most recent enhancements (8.50) delivered by GeorgiaBEST; Banner field called ZOALSTE
  - Converted scores (we think) will not show up on SOATEST but, rather, will occur “behind the scenes” in calculating EPI/MPI
  - For EPI/MPI to populate in SOATEST, however, priorities **must** be established in Banner (field is ZTVLSRC)
- b. Who is currently using Accuplacer?
  - various
- c. Who is still using COMPASS? If so, what is your transition plan when COMPASS goes “offline”?
  - various
  - Accuplacer help desk #: 866-607-5223
  - Suzanne McGurk, 843-513-3915; [smcgurk@collegeboard.org](mailto:smcgurk@collegeboard.org) is the Accuplacer rep for the USG
- d. Who is using the ESL version of Accuplacer? How do you determine who takes the ESL versus native English-speakers’ version? How are you using the ESL WritePlacer score in the EPI calculation, since the scales are not aligned with the native English speakers’ version?
  - UNG; GGC ?; GSU-GPC ?
  - Cannot use ESL Reading and WritePlacer scores to calculate EPI; only to determine placement in ESL
  - Prompts for ESL version of WritePlacer don’t match native English speakers’ version
  - Tammy Rosner is USG person working on ESL testing and placement policies; [tammy.rosner@usg.edu](mailto:tammy.rosner@usg.edu); 404-962-3061
  - If an applicant has EPI that makes them inadmissible but is eligible for ESL, may be admitted as Presidential Exception.

## 2. EPI/MPI

- a. Are the EPI and MPI Placement scores on the Evaluation for Learning Support Placement for Non-traditional Students Excel Sheet (sent on August 19, 2016) calculated so that we can use the same English 1101, Math 1111, Math1001 or Math1101 placement scores for non-traditional students as for traditional students? *From Barbara’s PPT:*
  - “Yes. You should be using the SAME placement scores for ALL students and the calculations provide the same scores for traditional and non-traditional students. The non-traditional students Excel spreadsheet was developed by request of an institution that wanted to be able to calculate placement for non-traditional students that ONLY had Accuplacer scores right after the test, in the testing center. So, that sheet assumes that students do not have HSGPA or SAT/ACT and calculates EPI and MPI based on Accuplacer scores only.”

- Short discussion ensued that Testing Centers probably don't need to be telling students they "passed" or didn't, as Admissions makes decisions after EPI/MPI are calculated. They might decline admission based on other factors.
- b. In the copy of the Concordance Chart, 61 is indicated as the minimum Critical Reading Accuplacer Placement score for English 1101. The Evaluation for Learning Support Placement Sheet for Non-Traditional Students has 75 as the minimum Critical Reading Accuplacer score for English 1101. Is 75 a converted score on the placement sheet for non-traditional students? **From Barbara's PPT:**
- "The scores on the Concordance chart for English and reading are rough guides ONLY because the EPI is a combination of scores on the Accuplacer Reading AND WritePlacer. The Concordance chart simply did the conversion for institutions not yet using EPI and MPI. (In other words, for institutions still using System cut scores for COMPASS/Accuplacer. REMEMBER, all schools must use EPI/MPI as of January 1, 2017.)
  - "Again, on the one-pager for non-traditional students, 75 was highlighted ONLY because a score of 75 or higher on the critical reading yields an EPI that is high enough for college placement if system minimums are used. (Short discussion reiterated that a student could score a 0 or 1 on WritePlacer and still place into Gateway English if Accuplacer score on Reading converts to at least 75 on COMPASS Reading.)
  - "**Bottom line:** It is best to use the "UltimatePlacementCalculator" (attached) which will give you the correct EPI and MPI for ALL students."
- c. At your school, who is doing the EPI/MPI calculations? Are they using the fields created in INB? If so, what has been their experience?
- 8 schools are doing calculations, either manually or using the fields in Banner INB (baseline).
  - At least one school still manually checking the EPI/MPI being pushed to SOATEST because fields are using out-of-date SAT/ACT scores, old COMPASS scores. Also possible for fields to pick up a HSGPA if student applied out of HS but is now either transfer or non-traditional.
  - If COMPASS scores are over one year old, applicant must take Accuplacer if placement test scores must be part of EPI/MPI calculation.
  - HSGPA is best predictor of success in a student's *first* semester in college. Should not use HSGPA in EPI/MPI calculation for any students with any post-HS graduation college experience. Therefore, no HSGPA in calculations for readmits, transfers, non-traditional applicants.
  - Question arose about whether or not calculator is picking up new SAT scores and, if so, the higher between old and new when both are present. Barbara will ask Amanda Marshall, Director of GeorgiaBEST, to look into this.
- d. How are you calculating EPI/MPI for transfers and readmits – what measures are you using? How are you calculating for non-traditional students for whom you have previous HSGPA and SAT/ACT scores, which you cannot use?
- Again, should not be using HSGPA for any of these. If SAT/ACT scores are still valid, may use either the SAT/ACT/Accuplacer-derived scores or the Accuplacer-only-derived scores, whichever is higher.

- e. Besides the ability to create rules for EPI/MPI calculation based on admit type, what other enhancements do we need to ask GA Best to create?
  - Dede is submitting a request to GeorgiaBEST to ask for the ability to create calculation rules based on admit type. Perhaps an expansion of ZTVLSRC, LS Index Rule Code Validation Form (where priorities are also established).
  - Anyone who submits a ticket to GeorgiaBEST, asking for further enhancements to 8.50, please copy Barbara and Dede, so we can keep up with the prevailing issues.
3. What methods do you use at your school for fluid communication between LS, English, and Math?
  - Recommendations made to create an institution-level committee or distribution list for information-sharing. Consider colleagues in: Advising, Admissions, Registrar, Testing, IT, English, Math, Disability Services, Financial Aid, etc. Contextualize committee or distribution list to specific institution.
  - Barbara sends LS-related information to the LS Community listserv, comprised of interested parties at each institution.
4. Reminder: GADE Conference; session proposal deadline extended to 11/14. Conference dates: Thursday, Feb. 9-Friday, Feb. 10, at MGSU in Macon