

Academic Enrichment Support Unit

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The Academic Enrichment Support Unit is responsible for testing and placement of students admitted to the University. Based on test results, students may be required to enroll in ACT/COMPASS prescribed courses.

ACT/COMPASS prescribed courses are designed to serve students whose test subscores indicate they need additional preparation before enrolling in higher-level courses that require specific prerequisites. Prescribed courses focus on four skill areas: writing, reading, mathematics, and learning strategies. Their purpose is to help students achieve a level of academic competence that will enable them to work successfully in subsequent courses. Students in these courses enjoy the advantages of smaller classes. Limited class sizes ensure personal attention and frequent interaction between instructors and students. Students in these courses also receive regular progress reports.

Academic Assessment Placement Testing

All entering degree-seeking students less than 21 years of age will be assessed for prescribed course placement initially according to valid ACT/SAT scores. Permissible scores are less than three years old. Students with ACT subscores that are 18 or lower in the areas of reading, English, or math are automatically placed in the courses in the appropriate area. Students with mathematics or verbal SAT scores of 450 or less are placed in the appropriate areas, and students with SAT composite scores of 890 or below are placed into the reading area. In an effort to minimize the number of courses that must be taken, students with prescribed course requirements in reading or English are required to verify this placement by taking the COMPASS test **prior** to registration. Students with only a math prescribed course requirement have the option of challenging this placement with COMPASS testing. Many students taking the COMPASS tests reduce or eliminate the number of prescribed courses they are required to take. The results of the COMPASS tests will never place students lower than their original ACT/SAT placement.

Nontraditional students without ACT/SAT scores are required to undergo assessment to determine appropriate placement in the prescribed courses. Applicants who will be 21 or older at the time of admission are required to undergo University

assessment for each area or may elect to provide ACT/SAT scores earned within three years before the first day of the first term of enrollment. For these purposes, University assessment includes (1) a test in writing; (2) a test in reading comprehension; and (3) a test in mathematics covering pre-algebra, elementary algebra, and intermediate algebra. The assessment exam is administered at MTSU through the Academic Assessment Center. Please call (615) 898-2568 for an appointment. Transfer students who have not earned college-level algebra-based math or English credits must undergo University assessment in appropriate areas.

Students admitted in the Adult Special category who have not completed the first college-level course in English or algebra-based mathematics must undergo assessment in the appropriate subject area and must complete courses indicated by test placement before enrolling in the respective college-level English or mathematics course. Adult Special students must also enroll in the prescribed courses before enrolling in any college-level course that has the needed prescribed course as a prerequisite.

Students admitted with high school English or algebra deficiencies must undergo assessment based on valid ACT/SAT scores or University testing for the purpose of meeting high school unit admission criteria. GED students are included in this category. This assessment is used to determine if prescribed course placement is necessary.

Academic Support

A number of support services provide tutoring to help students achieve the objectives in their courses. These are (1) the University Writing Center, (2) the Prescribed Course Reading Lab, and (3) the Prescribed Course Mathematics Lab. Free tutoring provided in the labs reinforces the curricula and objectives of the courses.

In addition, Academic Support Center advisors are available to assist students in all matters related to their academic lives. Each student who has a prescribed course requirement is assigned an advisor who assists with scheduling and other concerns affecting academic success. Students should check with the Academic Support Center in the McFarland building, (615) 898-2339, immediately upon arrival on campus to determine the name and office number of their assigned advisors. Students should make appointments with their advisors before registration and should see their advisors at least twice during the semester.

Mandatory Enrollment

Students with prescribed course requirements must be continuously enrolled in the course(s) until all have been successfully completed. Those failing a prescribed course must retake the course the next semester they enroll. They may not drop a prescribed course without the approval of the director of Academic Enrichment. Students are expected to attend all class sessions. Strict attendance policies are in place.

Students who are placed in four prescribed classes per semester may take only one other course—either ROTC or a PHED activity course. A student may not take any course that requires skill in any area in which deficiency has been determined by the assessment tool. Students are urged to consult with one of the Academic Support Center advisors for details.

Grades

To successfully complete some prescribed courses, students must earn a grade of C- or better. The grade of D is not assigned for those courses. DSP 0700 courses that are taught by Motlow faculty on the MTSU campus carry institutional credit only and do not count toward the hours required for an undergraduate degree. DSP 0700 course grades are not used in the computation of the 2.00 GPA required for a bachelor's degree nor the required GPA for admission to teacher education. The grades are used to compute a student's overall grade point average. Other prescribed courses carry elective credit or satisfy General Education requirements and are also used to compute the overall GPA.

Prescribed Courses Offered

When students receive the results of their University assessment tests, they are also given a list of the prescribed courses, if any, in which they must enroll. The K sections of University Seminar (UNIV 1010) have a special focus on academic skills and are required of any student who initially places into two subject areas. Students are encouraged to discuss their test scores and prescribed course placement with Academic Support Center advisors.

ENGL 1009K	Introduction to University Writing
MATH 1000K	Essentials of Mathematics
MATH 1010K	Mathematics for General Studies
MATH 1710K	College Algebra
READ 1000K	Reading Skill Enrichment
UNIV 1010K	University Seminar

Courses in Developmental Studies

See back of catalog for course descriptions.

Courses in Academic Success Program [ACA]

See back of catalog for course descriptions.