## **COMPASS STEERING COMMITTEE NOTES**

October 1, 2004 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. District Office – Board Room

### I. <u>COMPASS Exemption</u>

An electronic copy of the form used for placement into English was sent to all campuses and has been adopted by all.

The following concern was brought forth:

• COMPASS Exemption: The schedule indicates that students are exempt from COMPASS if they have an associate degree or higher from an accredited U.S. college or university. The new exemption form, ADS 71, instructs Enrollment Services to give an English placement code of 4, for those with an associate degree to allow registration into ENG-1520. This is without regard to the completion of ENG-1510, or an equivalent, with a grade of "C" or better.

The English department members stated that they were not aware of this associate degree exemption into ENG-1520 and that it is the responsibility of the department to make this decision.

It was suggested that a student exemption be given and not placement.

#### II. MTELP Exemption

The following concern was discussed:

• MTELP Exemption: Exemptions are the same as the COMPASS exemptions. There seem to be differing positions from counselors regarding an exemption from MTELP with non-U.S. bachelor degrees. Some have understood the "old" form and position to be that students would be exempt from MTELP and allowed to register for non-English or ESL courses.

It costs \$145.00 for an evaluation for students who have a non-U.S. bachelor degree evaluation and concerns were raised regarding the price.

Students with a non-U.S. bachelor degree are given an exemption without placement at the Auburn Hills Campus.

It was noted that at other universities, students who have a non-U.S. bachelor degree must take the TOEFL test.

Doug Riddering stated that he and Mike Khirallah both agreed a student with a non-U.S. bachelor degree should not to be treated any different than a student with a U.S. bachelor degree.

An e-mail was read regarding why walk-in testing isn't feasible at the Orchard Ridge Campus and why continued support is needed for testing centers where walk-in could work. It was also noted that walk-in testing would be intrusive to the academic support programs and not manageable due to limited staff and space at the campus.

Currently, there are three different processes for placement testing here at OCC and each one of these areas has a different set of rules. These include:

- MTELP
- COMPASS English
- COMPASS Math

It was suggested that this item be tabled until a representative from ESL could attend the meeting.

# III. <u>Prerequisites for Degree Holders from Non-U.S. Countries</u> (see Assessment/Requisite Exemption form)

The form was reviewed by the committee and several changes were made. Item #5 on the form is still under discussion.

It was noted that students with non-U.S. degrees do have the necessary skills which have been demonstrated and their ability should not be challenged. The discussion involved the validity of transfer evaluations of non-U.S. student transcripts by ECE and WES services.

#### IV. Math COMPASS/Placement

The following concern was brought forth:

• Math COMPASS/Placement: Students with courses transferred from non-U.S. colleges are not included in the possible exemption or placement possibilities according to the schedule and the ADS 71 form.

Reference was made to Item #6 on the Assessment/Requisite Exemption and the fact that you cannot just choose a course in the MAT area. In addition, this determination cannot be made from the ECE or WES

evaluation. It was suggested that a course substitution could be used to handle the MAT equivalency.

## V. <u>Testing Intake Methods (changing the written directions regarding the use of calculators)</u>

The current software states that a student can use their own calculator; however, the Math discipline says a student can only use the calculator on the computer. It was recommended using the bulletin board feature in COMPASS to correct this discrepancy. The COMPASS administrators agreed to look into this matter.

### VI. Registration Concerns Regarding COMPASS 2-year Rule for MATH

The Math Department is requesting that students not be de-registered if their COMPASS score has expired during the registration period.

A meeting with IT will be set up to discuss this matter.

#### VII. Other

Some OCC Counselors believe that Dual Enrolled high school students are penalized by our system. It was recommended that the placement requirements for these students be waived since the courses taken at OCC are used only for high school credit and the school district is paying the tuition. This issue will be taken under advisement.

The discussion included having recruiters better inform the high schools regarding OCC processes. It was also suggested that this issue could be addressed during the counselor's luncheon for high school staff.

It was noted that students are allowed to register for MAT-1040 without taking the placement test and the Math discipline is responsible for this decision.

#### Other suggestions:

- 1) Make the COMPASS placement expiration information available for students on WebAdvisor. Carla will consult with the IT department regarding this matter.
- 2) Place the English practice test on the OCC home page near the Math practice test.

Next meeting: November 5, 2004

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

District Office - Board Room