



**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING
OFFICE OF ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS**

MEMORANDUM

To: Chief Academic Officers and Chief Student Affairs Officers

From: Casey Prestwood, Ph.D.
Interim Associate Commissioner
Academic and Student Affairs

Date: May 1, 2020

Subject: System Guidance for IHL institutions regarding admission and placement for AY 2020-21 in response to COVID-19

PASS/FAIL GRADING SCALE

IHLs will accept grades of "Pass" to satisfy College Preparatory Curriculum (CPC) requirements completed during spring or summer 2020 terms. All prior coursework must be graded to satisfy CPC requirements. Grades of credit/pass or no credit/fail will not be included in the calculation of CPC or high school cumulative GPA.

ADMISSION VS. PLACEMENT

Admission requirements refer to the minimum standards of achievement as a prerequisite for entrance into any of the IHL institutions.

Placement assessments determine whether you are ready to take the college-level credit courses in English and/or Math in the first semester. In some cases, a student may need to take an intermediate course prior to the college-level course or a corequisite support course/lab with the college-level credit course to further develop skills.

A student may be admitted to a university based on minimum standards of achievement and may be required to enroll in intermediate (non-college-level courses) based on placement measures that indicate the student's background is deficient.

ADMISSION

WITH ACT/SAT SCORES

1. If ACT/SAT scores are submitted, follow regular admission eligibility policies and evaluate placement based on ACT subtest scores. (602.B.1-4, 602.C.1-2)
 - If college preparatory curriculum (CPC) requirements are satisfied but some courses have received “Pass” grades, calculate CPC GPA without using the “Pass” grades.
2. Evaluate to see if applicant satisfies NCAA Division I standards for student athletes. NCAA has waived standardized test scores (ACT/SAT) for 2020-21. However, if ACT/SAT is provided, evaluate placement based on ACT subtest scores. (602.B.4, 608)
3. If an applicant fails to meet full admission standards, an institution may conduct a review involving consideration of high school performance, ACT/SAT (if available), placement testing, special interests and skills as well as other non-cognitive factors. (602.C.1-2)

WITHOUT ACT/SAT SCORES

1. If CPC GPA is 3.2 or greater without ACT/SAT, fully admit. (602.B.1)
2. If CPC GPA between 2.00 and 3.20 without ACT/SAT, admit and evaluate placement. (602.C.1-2)
 - Offer ACCUPLACER for those without ACT to determine placement – OR –
 - Use multiple measures to determine placement.
3. If applicant satisfies NCAA Division I standards for student athletes. NCAA has waived standardized test scores (ACT/SAT) for 2020-21.
 - If no ACT/SAT is provided, offer ACCUPLACER or use multiple measures to determine placement. (602.B.4, 602.C.1-2, 608)
4. Institutions may encounter students who submit their ACT/SAT scores, but who are only admissible by not including those submitted scores. Institutions may admit applicants who would be denied for admission by using their submitted test scores but can be admitted to the summer or fall 2020 terms using the CPC GPA-based criteria.
 - ACT/SAT subtest scores, ACCUPLACER, or multiple measures may be used to determine placement.
5. If an applicant fails to meet full admission standards, an institution may conduct a review involving consideration of high school performance, ACT/SAT (if available), placement testing, special interests and skills as well as other non-cognitive factors. (602.C.1-2)

PLACEMENT USING MULTIPLE MEASURES

Multiple measures (as determined by the admitting IHL institution), if used, shall be documented and shall be made available on the institution’s website to inform applicants and prospective students.