



MEMORANDUM

To: Donna E. Shalala, President

From: Tomas A. Salerno
Chair, Faculty Senate

Date: April 30, 2015

Subject: Faculty Senate Legislation #2014-39(B) – Faculty Senate University Curriculum Committee Redesign of the English Composition General Education Proficiency Requirement

The Faculty Senate, at its April 22, 2015 meeting, voted unanimously to approve the proposal of the University Curriculum Committee to redesign the English Composition General Education Proficiency requirement.

As stated in the enclosed, “This proposal will facilitate the introduction of the ACT Plus Writing and SAT with optional Essay which will be required, beginning in Fall 2017, for all new undergraduate applicants with fewer than thirty credits. Additionally, the proposal will ensure that graduates have acquired essential skills necessary for writing proficiency.”

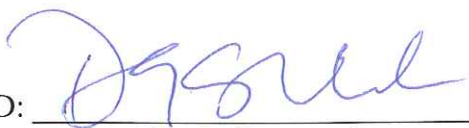
This legislation is now forwarded to you for your action.

TAS/rh

Enclosure

cc: Thomas LeBlanc, Executive Vice President and Provost
William Green, Sr. Vice Provost and Dean, Undergraduate Education
David Wiles, Executive Director, Planning, Institutional Research, and Assessment
Richard Beckman, Chair, University Curriculum Committee
All Academic Deans

CAPSULE: Faculty Senate Legislation #2014-39(B) – Faculty Senate University Curriculum Committee Redesign of the English Composition General Education Proficiency Requirement

APPROVED:  DATE: 5/10/14
(President's Signature)

OFFICE OR INDIVIDUAL TO IMPLEMENT: DEAN BACHAS

EFFECTIVE DATE OF LEGISLATION: IMMEDIATELY
(if other than June 1 next following)

NOT APPROVED AND REFERRED TO: _____

REMARKS (IF NOT APPROVED): _____

Proposal to Redesign the English Composition General Education Proficiency Requirement

Purpose: Section B4.13 of the Faculty Code that states, "At least every five years the University Curriculum Committee ["UCC"] shall conduct a review of the General Education Requirements and recommend to the Senate whatever changes may be appropriate" with the goal of bring recommendations to the Faculty Senate regarding the General Education Areas of Proficiency. After consultation with, and support from Joanna Johnson, Director, Composition Program, Department of English (jsjohnson@miami.edu), the UCC passed the following recommendations after an extensive (two year) review of the current English Composition General Education Proficiency.

This proposal will facilitate the introduction of the ACT Plus Writing and SAT with optional Essay which will be required, beginning in Fall 2017, for all new undergraduate applicants with fewer than thirty credits. Additionally, the proposal will ensure that graduates have acquired essential skills necessary for writing proficiency.

Proposal:

1. Require all students to complete the English Composition General Education Proficiency prior to attaining junior standing.

2. That, beginning in fall 2016, new students without prior college credit in English composition^[i] will be placed as follows:

ACT English score below 18 and

SAT Writing score below 430 and

(if relevant) TOEFL iBT Writing score below 18^[ii]

ENG 103^[iii]

ACT English score 18-31 or

SAT Writing score 430-680 or

TOEFL iBT Writing score 18 or above

ENG 105

ACT English score 32 or above or

SAT Writing score 690 or above^[iv]

ENG 106 or 107

3. Furthermore, beginning in fall 2017, the ACT Plus Writing^[v] or the Redesigned SAT with optional Essay^[vi] will be required for new undergraduate applicants with fewer than 30 transfer credits. Placement cutoffs for the ACT Plus Writing and the Redesigned SAT with optional Essay are to be comparable to the fall 2016 score levels above, using concordance tables for the ACT Plus Writing and the Redesigned SAT with optional Essay.

Prepared by David E. Wiles

March 2, 2015

[i] Currently new University of Miami students are placed using their SAT Critical Reading score instead of the SAT Writing score and for those submitting ACT scores, the ACT Plus Writing is not required. New transfers with 30 credits or more are not required to submit ACT or SAT scores.

[ii] ACT recommends an English score of 18 (39th percentile) for college readiness in English composition (<http://www.act.org/aap/concordance/pdf/reference.pdf>) while the College Board uses a combined SAT score of 1550 out of 2400 possible (Critical Reading + Mathematics + Writing) for college readiness (<http://satbenchmark.collegeboard.org>). An ACT combined English/Writing score is considered comparable to a 430 on the SAT Writing (<http://www.act.org/aap/concordance/pdf/reference.pdf>). No concordant score values are provided for ACT English (single score without "Plus Writing") to SAT Writing.

[iii] For new freshmen and transfers entering the University of Miami in the fall of 2014 and submitting ACT scores, 22 (1.8%) had an ACT English score below 18 and 35 (2.3%) had an SAT Writing score below 430. Using the proposed ACT English and SAT Writing cutoffs above for ENG 103 would have resulted in not more than 42 additional student placements in ENG 103 sections in fall 2014. (No change is recommended in the TOEFL Writing section score standard.)

[iv] An ACT English score of 32 (95th percentile) or SAT Writing score of 690 (95th percentile) permits students to place out of ENG 105. (No change is recommended in the ACT English score standard; however, instead of the SAT Critical Reading score of 700 or better, an SAT Writing score of 690 or better will be required.)

[v] Of 11 AAU institutions accredited by the SACS Commission on Colleges, 10 require the ACT Plus Writing (<http://www.actstudent.org/writing/>): Duke, Emory, Florida, Georgia Tech, North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Rice, Texas A&M, Texas at Austin, Vanderbilt, and Virginia.

[vi] The Redesigned SAT with optional Essay will be introduced in March 2016 (<https://www.collegeboard.org/delivering-opportunity/sat/redesign/compare-tests>).

Proposed text should be published, as necessary.

BEGIN TEXT:

ENGLISH COMPOSITION GENERAL EDUCATION PROFICIENCY REQUIREMENT

Effective Fall 2016, new students without prior college credit in English Composition will be placed as follows:

ENG 103: ACT English score below 18, SAT Writing score below 430, and (if relevant) TOEFL iBT Writing score below 18.

ENG 105: ACT English score 18-31, SAT Writing score 430-680, or TOEFL iBT Writing score 18 or above.

ENG 106 or ENG 107: ACT English score 32 or above or SAT Writing score 690 or above

Beginning Fall 2017, the ACT Plus Writing or the Redesigned SAT with optional Essay will be required for new undergraduate applicants with fewer than thirty transfer credits. Placement cutoffs for the ACT Plus Writing and the Redesigned SAT with optional Essay are to be comparable to the fall 2016 score levels above, using concordance tables for the ACT Plus Writing and the Redesigned SAT with optional Essay.

All requirements for the English Composition General Education Requirements must be completed prior to attaining junior year classification.

END TEXT.