

## Cut-Scores Established by the Community Colleges in Maryland

It was observed that in the late 90's there were essentially 3 placement test instruments used by the community colleges in Maryland: Accuplacer, Compass and DMLS/DMTS. Each of the three disciplines, Writing, Reading and Math, had met separately and eventually they choose common cut-scores for the three instruments. The DMLS/DMTS is no longer used, so currently only Accuplacer and Compass are used to place students in developmental courses. The following are cut-scores are for placement into College-Level courses. Attaining these scores will exempt students from taking developmental courses in the particular discipline. Cut-scores within the developmental programs were not standardized. Although the content of the developmental courses was similar, the distribution among the developmental courses was not similar. For example some colleges had 3 developmental courses to cover Arithmetic through Intermediate Algebra, while other colleges had 4 or 5 courses. Note: Intermediate Algebra was the prerequisite for all College Level math courses, so a student had to show competency in Intermediate Algebra to place into College-Level Math. The four year colleges have since adopted these cut-scores.

Test	Compass (Asset)	Accuplacer (Companion)	DTLS/DTMS
Writing	70 or higher (Asset: 55 or higher.)	90 or higher (Companion: 28 or higher)	315 or higher
Reading	75* or higher	79 or higher	113 or higher
Math	63 or higher.	45 or above on College Level Math (Branching at 70 on Elem. Alg.)	710 or higher on Int. Alg. Standardized Score on Form A (Raw Score of 16 or higher)

\* Based on sample scores, it was recommended that this cut-score be changed to 80. Some Colleges made this change, but it is not known if all of them did.

Additional recommendations were made concerning placement and placement testing:

- All students should be required to take placement exams unless they had high SAT or ACT scores.
- Students should be allowed to take the placement tests at most two times.
- The placement test scores should be good for a maximum of two years.
- Once a student enters a developmental sequence, he or she should not be allowed to take the placement test to get out of the sequence.