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Memo

Replaced by
UC 9237 075
11/24/07
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Date: 11/06/2006
To: UC- Academic Policy Committee
From: Izzy Gamez on behalf of Enrollment Management Task Force (EMTF) and Orientation Content Subcommittee
RE: Math Placement Test for incoming freshmen

The attachment has been positively voted by the Enrollment Management Task Force and the Orientation Content Subcommittee. Please contact Dr. Agnes Defranco if you would like further information at aldefranco@central.uh.edu; you may also reach her at 713-743-2422.

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Enc. 1
Attachments

Math Placement Test Requirement

Rationale:

1. Students need to be placed in the proper class to ensure learning the material and passing the class. We currently have too many failures and too many retakes.
2. Many high school students take their last high school math class prior to their senior year so that their math skills have degraded by the time they arrive at UH.
3. Even those students with high SAT or ACT math test scores may have degraded math skills by the time they enter UH. Often these tests are taken before the senior year of high school.
4. Currently, only four colleges do not require a math placement test, but all four of the college deans support the mandatory test.

Proposed New Procedure:

1. As soon the student is accepted, the acceptance letter will contain an HA#.
2. As acceptance letters are sent out, the student's HA# and name will be sent to Jeff Morgan in mathematics.
3. He will upload the HA#s and names from RAR (or RAR does a roster dump for Jeff) to give student access to the on-line testing system.
4. Students can just log-in as new users and enter their HA# to access the test and other materials. Students then take their placement test online. We propose that students be allowed to take the test twice so that students may improve their scores after an initial poor performance, and so that we can avert Internet communication problems (inadvertent logouts, etc).
5. All advisors and other designated personnel will be given access to the placement test grade book so they can advise students on math placement.
6. Students will be notified in their orientation letter about the online math placement test option and also the on-campus live test option scheduled on the day before formal orientation.
7. All students who have earned college math credits with a C or above are exempt from taking the test. All students who have received college math credits by test (AP, IB, etc.) are also exempt from taking the placement test.

Proposed Budget:

Jeff Morgan of the math department can design an online test and other related options:

Option I	test only: resource	\$5,000
Option II	test and some study materials	\$10,000
Option III	test, study materials, practice tests	\$15,000.

Other Future Options-Later Starting Math 1300 Classes:

Math 1310 students who do poorly on the first test will be dropped into a math 1300 class to begin on the first day of third semester week. This backup system permits an immediate 'correction' to misplacement so the student can continue progress to graduation rather than waiting to take 1300 or waiting to retake 1310 the next semester.

There are a number of issues for discussion here:

1. Our registration system's ability to manage the movement to the 1300 class after the start of the semester.
2. Cost of 'standby faculty' for later starting 1300 classes.
3. Maintenance of ORD enrollment.

We recommend a small scale trial late start 1300 program for fall 2007. We could start with two sections.